TROT

Trail Riders of Today

TROT News - February 2003

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Editor:Debbie Palmer
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February 2003

NEWS
Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

Number 140

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2003
Time: doors open 5:30 pm
Place: Howard Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building
Directions: Rt. 144, 1 mile west of Rt. 32 and I-70 exit 80
Menu: A-I, Main Dishes
J-P, Side Dishes
Q-Z, Desserts

Come join old friends and meet new ones! Bring your friends! Bring a new member! Meet your county's representatives and fellow riders, share ideas, make plans to ride new trails and revisit old ones. And come with an appetite!!

Annual Meeting Agenda: The TROT Annual Meeting is a joint PotLuck and Business gathering of TROT members. The agenda is somewhat informal, but there will an election of board members and you will hear from Gale Monahan, President of TROT.

TROT Board members serve at least 2 years and their job is to meet once a month to discuss the business of TROT – which includes fund raisers (like the Judged Pleasure Ride), GPS mapping, legislation that concerns trails and trail riders, Fairs and expos to exhibit at, and most importantly, trails that are being encroached upon by development and public parks that need to include horseback riders!

Our current Board members include: Gale Monahan, President; Tim McGrath, Vice President; Pat Merson, Secretary; Anne Bennof, Treasurer; Kathy Dobson, Angela Klinger, Marilyn Miller, Jack Monahan, Deneen Martin and Michelle Beachley. Board Members are nominated and voted on by the TROT members present at this Annual Meeting. At the next scheduled Board Meeting, the Board Members elect officers from among themselves. The meetings are often held at Jack and Gale's house in Highland, or sometimes at another location to suit the Board members.

The final item of the Annual Meeting is a guest speaker...and this year we have **Jim Lewis, DVM**. Dr. Lewis will be addressing the topic of acupuncture and the West Nile virus. Further agendas will be posted at the door.

Marcella Petree
1911 - 2003

Marcella Petree, a founding member of TROT and mother of TROT member, Carol Petree Iglehart, passed away on January 8 after a long illness.

Marcella was a lovely person with a sharp mind and many diverse interests. She held a Ph.D. degree in physics and spent her most of her professional life as a solid state physicist at the Naval Ordinance Laboratory in Silver Spring. She did pioneering work in semiconductors, some of which is still classified. In 1968, she was nominated for the Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award.

She loved nature as well as science, and passed on her love of animals and the outdoors to Carol. For many years, she was also active in various civic associations in Montgomery County. At the time TROT was being formed in 1980, Marcella was no longer a rider but nonetheless volunteered to serve as our first Vice President. In that capacity, she went before the civic groups and obtained resolutions and/or letters of support for the existence of bridle trails. These expressions of community support were very important when we later went before the Planning Board and the County Council seeking recognition of trails in master plans – a pioneering concept at the time.

Marcella was an extraordinary lady, and we all gained from her wisdom.

Anne Bennof

TO ALL THOSE THAT VOLUNTEERED TO MAN THE BOOTH AT THE HORSE WORLD EXPO . . .

Wanted to again offer my personal thanks, along with that of the club, to everyone who gave up their time and promoted the club at the Expo. The club could not continue to exist without the volunteer efforts of its members so, WELL DONE!

Thanks to all the Board Members who helped, as well as: George Lyons, Randi Wetzel, Maryellen Richter, Tim McGrath, Bea Dane, Janet Breeding, Kathy Dobson, JoAnn Kricker, Pat Keilholtz, Janet Leitzel, Diane and Robert Van Cura, Susan Saunders, Michelle Rich, Deneen Martin, Dawn Lundgren, Gale Monahan and Suzanne Anderson.

Doreen Mendola

The following letter was received in rebuttal to the Good Riding and Good Neighbors article which ran in the December, 2002, issue of the TROT newsletter:

January 17, 2003

Dear Madam:

I hope you will allow me to use your forum to reply to a letter in the December newsletter. This letter from Barb and Tom Thelan concerned foxhunters (most certainly our Wicomico Hunt) and our lack of respect and consideration for landowners. Anyone who has ever been associated with or had knowledge of hunt clubs knows that we consider our landowners the lifeblood of our sport. We have a specific committee and budget dedicated to doing what we can to further and keep smooth relationships with them. Education of our members as to the etiquette of being a guest on someone's property is also a big priority. There are seminars, mailed educational materials and constant verbal reminders of the care we should take of those properties. We have the same desire as TROT to keep territories open to riders and take our responsibility very seriously.

This being said mishaps and errors do sometimes occur. The incident in question when a landowner was upset did have some mitigating circumstances. Sometimes in their zeal to protect the hounds the hunt staff will let their feelings overcome their better judgment. A couple of whippers-in rode around the edge of an unknown field to retrieve hounds before they could reach the traffic at the paved road. The field (the main body of horses) went a different way and did not ride this land. Although I am still not condoning the actions of the whips, it was not a case of fifty horses galloping willy-nilly over planted fields. As for the statement that no apology was offered, our huntsman did later talk to this upset gentleman and not only apologized but offered to compensate him for any losses and promised (which has been kept) that we would not go on his property again. I feel it was a shame that the Thelans chose to publicly denounce us without hearing what we had to say, when we all need to be pulling together for this cause that is so dear to all riders who want to get out of rings and experience the countryside on horseback.

Thank you for your attention and keep up your good works, which benefit us all. Please, don't hesitate to call on foxhunters for help; we all have the same goal of making horses welcome on both public and private lands.

Sincerely,
Carolyn C. Senter, Jt. MFH
Wicomico Hunt

While every story has two sides, and we have presented both, I would love to hear from the land owner and what he/she has to say!
Editor

Top Ten Spook List

by: The Horse

10. BLOWING PAPER. "At any moment it could whip up into our faces, covering our noses. We could suffocate. And don't try to tell us you'd do CPR."

9. BARKING DOGS. "What? You've never read Steven King's CUJO?"

8. PUDDLES OF WATER. "Quicksand."

7. TRASH CANS. "They've been know to swallow horses and transport them into another dimension."

6. BABIES AND LIL KIDS. "Long lost tribe of horse-eating pygmies."

5. PLAID HORSE BLANKETS. "Hey, when was the last time you wore plaid? It adds 100 lbs."

4. ROPES AND HOSES ON THE GROUND. "Dreaded North American trail snakes."

3. PONIES. "Cute, clever, hardy. They want to take over the World."

2. WINDY DAYS. "Two words: impending tornado."

AND THE NUMBER ONE SCARY THING IN THE MINDS OF HORSES?

1. CARTS AND WAGONS. "Look. You put a human on our backs, we can always buck them off. But hitching a horse to a wheeled object? It's just not right. No matter how fast the horse trots, the dang cart is still running after him. OH, THE HORROR!!!!"

This Month's Recipe

Carrot and Apple Horse Cookies

1 cup sweet feed
2 cups bran
1 cup flax seed
4 large carrots, shredded
1 cup molasses
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup applesauce

Mix molasses, brown sugar, carrots and applesauce in one bowl. In another, mix the dry ingredients. Slowly combine the molasses mixture with the dry ingredients. Add only enough to form a thick dough, add more bran if necessary. Line cookie sheet with aluminum foil or waxed paper.

Using a tablespoon, drop batter onto cookie sheet and flatten slightly to form portions about the size of a silver dollar. Bake at 300 degrees for about 1 hour, flip and bake for an additional 45 minutes, until they are dried out. Check often to make sure they don't burn.

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Michelle Beachley (301/482-2526) A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

February 15, Sat: ANNUAL POT LUCK!

Hello all!.......My name is Michelle Beachley and will be TROT's new trail ride coordinator. First order of business is a big THANK YOU to Mary Prowell for all her time and effort – Thanks Mary!

I am very excited to work with members of this much-needed organization! Though I have many new ideas, I welcome any thoughts, comments, suggestions, etc. that would make these rides more appealing to you. Please feel free to contact me at home (301/482-2526) or via email (webebeachleys@msn.com).

I am anxious to explore more trails outside my local area of Damascus whilst meeting new people and seeing familiar faces! Let's ride!!!

March 23 Sun: Paint Branch Ride. Mont. Co.

> These trails were the beginning inspiration for TROT. Come ride the Paint Branch, the Gum Spring, and the Good Hope tributaries. If time allows, we can also ride the connecting trail to the Rocky Gorge Watershed. Time about 2 to 3 hours, moderate pace (walk, trot, possibly some cantering depending on the group). These are stream valley trails with river crossings and the possibility of mud this time of year. A snack or lunch for after the ride would be a good idea, especially if we go over to Rocky Gorge. Contact Mary Prowell at 301-607-8061 or Boprow@aol.com

April 26 Sat: Patuxent River State Park - SCAVENGER RIDE, How. Co.

> These trails are some of the most extensive areas of trails you can ride. The pace will be mostly walk/trot and ride time will be up to 4 hours. These are stream valley trails with river crossings. The ride will start at 10:00 AM. Bring a bag lunch, as we will stop on the trail and something to hold your findings in. Parking is located off Rt. 94. Contact Deneen Martin at 301-253-2955 or Michelle Beachley at 301-482-2526 or webebeachleys@msn.com

April 26 Sun: Union Mills, Carroll Co.

> This lovely park has many varied trails-- woods, streams, some hills, and expansive views north to Pennsylvania farmland. Ride for 2 to 3 hours at a walk/trot pace. If people want to ride a bit faster will possibly have a group for that too. May have one road crossing. Contact Cathy McElroy at 410-857-3540.

May 04 Sun: 10:00 AM - Potomac Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal, Mont. Co.

> This ride leaves Anna's historic working farm and travels over the fields, past the Polo field, through the woods, and down to the C&O canal towpath, and the Potomac river. There are usually three groups: walk, trot, and canter with a possible snack break at the White's Ferry Store. Anna treats every one to a cookout at her farm after the ride. Covered dishes are welcome. It is important she get an accurate head count for this ride. Call Anna Slayman at 301-972-8187.

May 31 Sat: Little Bennett Regional Park, Mont. Co.

> This interesting and versatile park has woods, fields, a Boy Scout Campground, and a one-room schoolhouse with a swinging bridge. This park is a very popular riding destination. The ride will be approx. 3-3 ½ hours with a walk/trot pace. Bring a bag-lunch for trailer talk after the ride! Parking is located behind the Little Bennett Golf Course. Call Mimi Ernst for more information at 301-416-2388.

TBD - - - Green horse/ Green Rider trail day.

> We are coordinating a schooling day for horses and riders that do not have much trail riding experience or the seasoned rider looking for something different. All ages' welcome (what a perfect way to introduce young riders!). The pace will be slow to allow both horse and rider to gain confidence over, around and even under obstacles (natural and man-made). We will also talk about basic trail guidelines along the way. Seasoned riders and horses will lead the ride. The location and time of this event will be determined upon the amount of interest. Please contact Michelle Beachley at 301-482-2526 or webebeachleys@msn.com (Ps. I will be there with my green mare!)

A note from the trail coordinator: Since I am new to this, any feedback, suggestions or comments would be greatly appreciated. This is our organization - let's have FUN! ~ Michelle

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

> We are interested in riding near Civil War Battlefields and would like to hear from anyone familiar with horse trails around Antietam (MD) and Manassas (VA). Please contact Kyle Jossi at 301/570-3860.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROT News, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is January 25th. Make checks out to TROT.
Type or print your ad, 38 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

FOR SALE: Black 17-1/2" County Dresprix saddle (with 3 position panel adjustments). Excellent condition. Comfortable for trail riding and jumping. Asking $800. Call Jan at 301/347-4786 (day) or 301/371-0888 (pm) or email at solovey@optometry.org.

House to Share - Looking for female roommate to share small, rustic carriage house on 10 acres in quaint, rural Northern Virginia town. Located 30 minutes from Frederick and Leesburg, and 10 minutes from MARC train station. $400/month rent includes utilities and Direct TV. Self-care field boarding available for $125/month on adjoining 200 acre, private farm with large outdoor ring and access to miles of trails. 540-822-9294.

Horses for Sale - Several nice horses for sale (QH and QH-crosses). Will make excellent trail horses or competition prospects. Priced from $2,500 to $4,000 OBO. 540-822-9294.

DE-JUNK YOUR TACK ROOM – and sell your stuff here! Spring Cleaning time is almost here! How many bits do you have that you haven't used in year? How many saddle pads do you really need? How many hoof picks? Lead ropes? What about training videos? De-clutter and earn some extra cash!

***This is YOUR newsletter*...we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers: Gale Monahan, President (301-854-3852); Tim McGrath, Vice President (301-428-8216); Pat Merson, Secretary (301-898-3251); Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301-829-0949)

Directors/Board Members: Kathy Dobson (410-747-2015); Angela Klinger (301-898-9133); Marilyn Miller (301-898-7274); Jack Monahan (301-854-3852); Deneen Martin; Michelle Rich (301-482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer; Trail Ride Coordinator: Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)

Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (301-428-8216)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page Master: George and Lisa Graff
County Coordinators: Carroll – Anne Bennof; Howard – Gale Monahan;
Frederick – Angela Klinger & Pat Merson; Montgomery – Tim McGrath; Prince George's – Mary Angevine

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HEALTH ISSUES ...

The Information Exchange

From Our Members!

No one shared any information!
Please send in your submission for April's newsletter!

Here are a few ideas for April's issue:

Manure Management – how do you manage manure on your farm? Write, telling us how many horses you have, what your facilities are like, and how you dispose of manure. Any unusual tips that might help our readers?

Keeping Weight on Your Geriatric Horse – how do you do it? Any sure things?

How do you administer oral medication to those "difficult" horse patients? The champion head bobbers? We want to know!

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763.
And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

February 22, 2003

Trail Riding Clinic

Clinic to enlighten and inform those interested in distance riding, whether it be pleasure or competition.

Front Royal, VA
contact Stephanie Muncy @ 540/635-5912 or
smancy@rmaonline.net

Seminar and Training Ride

March 30, 2003

Covering basics of conditioning the trail horse, includes a 2-3 hour ride demonstrating those principles.

Graves Mountain Lodge
Syria, VA
Contact Martha Ann Romoser (703) 620-9484 or
ballethorselady@yahoo.com

Photo Seminar

February 26, 2003

Professional Photographer

Meikka Cutlip
Location: Clifton Town Meeting Hall
Time: 7:30 pm
RSVP by 2/24/03 to Sid Newman
email sonewman@starpower.net or 703/968-6615

Gain valuable tips on successfully photographing your horse!

Pleasure Ride at Fountainhead Park

April 6, 2003

5, 10, 15 or 20 miles

Pre-registration required
For Information call Kathy Jayne
703/239-8590
or Pat Hepner 703/830-8394

Chesapeake 25 Mile Competitive Trail Ride

or Chesapeake 15-Mile Training Ride
April 19, 2003

Contact Call 410/420-7678 or
email CPENGUIN57@aol.com

Krazy Kritters 4-H Trail Ride

April 25-27, 2003
Fair Hill, MD

Stalls & Overnight
Camping Available
Call 410/287-9343

PONDEROSA TRAILS

in the Ozarks of Southwest Missouri

Trail rides for horse and mule riders

Trails from limestone bluffs to woodlands and gravel beaches. Enjoy a swimming hole, fishing, fun shows, bingo, dancing, team penning and tall tales around the campfire.

Daily, weekly & monthly rates available.

Www.ponderostrails.net or email us at
pndrosa@olemac.net or call 888/644-6773

Other sites of interest:

Ground Control Horse shoes – see
www.PlasticHorseshoes.com

Trail Supplies, western & english – see
www.stagecoachwest.com

About the Horse – www.aboutthehorse.com

Cook Forest Scenic Trail Ride

Located near Allegheny National Forest in Northwestern Pennsylvania. 300 miles of woodland trails. 5 day pack trips, organized trail rides, individual horse camping, good trail horses for rent, "all you can eat" homecooked food.

Contact Ray & Terri Smith

814-856-2081

April 13 - Passage Creek No Frills
50/30 Endurance Ride.

Fort Valley, VA.

Contact Virginia Ingram 540-933-6071.

Gettysburg Horse Park

Full service camping resort for you & your horse! Campsites with full electric and water. Covered box stalls, open gate stalls and wood corrals available for your horses.

Enjoy riding the nearby trails of Historic Gettysburg Battlefield.

Call 717/334-1288 or email us at Artillery Ridge@Earthlink.net.

Camden, Tennessee

Wooded trails, creeks, rolling hills, easy traveling terrain, country cookin', clean bath houses, plenty of camping spaces.

Call or email for brochure-- 731/584-9206
or birdsngtr@cs.com.

An Apple (Cider Vinegar) A Day...

This age-old home remedy has many uses around the barn!

Add ¼ c to drinking water daily during warm weather and horses may be less bothered by biting insects!

Use for traveling horses! Horses are sometimes unwilling to drink water that smells and tastes different from what they are used to at home. Most horses love the taste of apple cider vinegar and will drink any water to which it's added!

For a vinegar liniment: combine 1 pint apple cider vinegar with 1 tsp cayenne pepper and 6-8 drops of the essential oil of pine or rosemary. Shake well and massage into tight, strained muscles or sore joints, or simply soak a cloth or bandage in the liniment and hold on the affected area as long as possible.

Digestive aid? In addition to acidifying the gastrointestinal tract, apple cider vinegar promotes the growth of beneficial bacteria. Both of these factors are important to digestion. Add ¼ to ½ cup to daily feed.

Cider vinegar advocates claim it prevents bladder, kidney and intestinal stones. It won't dissolve stones that already exist, but adding it to a stone-prone's horse's diet often coincides with the problem's disappearance.

The Beginning of the End...

A friend gives you a horse...

You build a small shelter...$750
You fence in a paddock...$450
Purchase small truck to haul hay...$12,000
Purchase a 2 horse trailer...$2,800
Purchase 2nd horse...$2,500
Build larger shelter with storage...$2,000
More fencing...$1,200
Purchase 3rd horse...$3,000
Purchase 4 horse trailer...$17,500
Purchase larger truck...$23,000
Purchase 4 acres next door...$38,000
More fencing...$2,000
Build small barn...$18,000
Purchase camper for truck...$9,000
Purchase tractor...$23,000
Purchase 4th & 5th horse...$6,500
Purchase 20 acres...$285,000
Build house...$185,000
Build barn...$56,000
More fencing & corrals...$24,000
Build covered arena...$182,000
Purchase Dually...$44,000
Purchase gooseneck w/living quarters...$45,000
Purchase 6th, 7th & 8th horse...$10,750
Hire full time trainer...$50,000
Build house for trainer...$84,000
Buy motor home for shows...$125,000
Hire attorney -- spouse leaving you for trainer...$35,000
Declare bankruptcy, spouse gets everything.

Friend feels sorry for you...gives you a horse.....

It's time to start watching and being aware of any new bills that may come up (AGAIN!) about Sunday Hunting!

This issue is sure to come up again this year, and we encourage EVERYONE to be pro-active towards its defeat! TROT Members made a difference last year...let's do it again! Here is information on ...

HOW TO CONTACT THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

If you have a computer,
log on: http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us

HOW TO FIND AND CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Click on: General Assembly
Click on: "Find" in "Contact or Find a legislator"
Click on: Look up form (which will allow you to list your address)

Click on: Name of your Senator and your Delegate in the MD General Assembly. You will get a full page of information on each and how to contact them. You'll get address, phone, fax, e-mail – use what is most comfortable for you. Just remember, personal contact means the most.

* * *

HOW TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Click on General Assembly
In paragraph beginning: "The Maryland General Assembly meets in Annapolis each year for 90 days..."
Click on Maryland General Assembly
Click on Committees
Click on House Standing Committees
Click on Environmental Matters Committee
Click on Senate Standing Committees
Click on Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Click on each name for information about that committee member

* * *

HOW TO READ AND FOLLOW PROGRESS OF BILL

Click on General Assembly
Insert HG9 and Click on Submit (Watch for Senate bill in Subject listing)
Note bill sponsors. Your legislator? Make extra effort to contact, as well as committee. If full text of bill does not appear, try clicking on "First Reading" near bottom

* * *

If you don't have a computer, visit your local library. Library staff will help you look up the information. Or phone the Department of Legislative Services at 410-946-5400.

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April 2003

Number 141

Montgomery County Update

from Naomi Manders

Greetings to all you good horse folks out there !

It's time to bring you up to date on the County trails plans. We have done pretty well, having constructed about 15 miles of new trail in the past two years, all with volunteer labor. Most of the activity has been on the Seneca Trail and the Magruder Branch to Damascus; but Fairland, Northwest Branch, and Rachel Carson are being worked on too. Your TROT Newsletter editor has asked me to explain how new trails are born so I'll try to summarize. Remember that most of the County trails you enjoy are "informal" within parkland and on private property (with or without permission).

Formal trails are those managed and maintained by the County. To formalize a trail it must first become a legitimate project (Capital Improvement Program or CIP) with appropriate funding. Funding covers lots of staff time, mapping, surveyor work and bridge costs. It is not simply a "clean-up" of an existing trail although we try to retain portions of trail that are in good condition. Planning includes many staff walks designed to choose the best alignment . Staff includes Natural Resource people who look at quality of forest, endangered species of plants and animals, water quality people who look for erosion and most importantly, bridge sites. You should know that in the long run, bridges are a better solution to stream crossings than fords because the stream banks are thus protected from the impact of your horse's feet (and others !). Many hard-core trail users insist on "stepping stones" but there are lots of reasons a bridge is preferable---especially since they can be installed so easily with high tech materials. Other concerns are archaeological and historical sites near the trail. Destinations and neighborhood access are also part of the plans. Frequently, a pending subdivision nearby offers future population use as well as park dedication or Homeowners Open Space which can support a trail.

During the preliminary alignment phase, I seek input from user groups and my volunteer construction gang. Eventually a refined alignment is chosen and a workday is scheduled with the volunteer organizations. Some of you have already joined up. That's where the grunt work starts and I'm duly impressed. Parks have been buying materials and providing supervision. Montgomery County does not allow volunteers to work unsupervised; not just because of liability, but because we want the trail to conform to the careful planning put into it.

After the trail is constructed, trail amenities such as kiosks, parking, signage are provided. I'm a bit behind on that. The County has determined a specific sign plan which provides minimal, but clear, information at all entries or intersections of trail. In-between we are using the international system of blue blazes which you may have noticed. Although some trail users seem to not notice their surroundings, I'm always thinking of aesthetics and safety for you riders. A good trail is a pleasure to ride and should please you visually.

M-NCPPC welcomes you to join our growing bank of volunteers. You can email me at **naomi.manders@mncppc-mc.org** or check into **senecatrail.org** for notices of upcoming workdays. I am working on my own database here for individual Parks.

There is another critical issue I'd like to bring forward : road crossings. Road crossings loom as the biggest challenge in the planning process. You can have all the trails you desire but the road problems will stop many. My suggestions is to form a TROT committee to lobby for special signals at grade or underpasses. The County has built 3 underpasses for trails with more suggested. Underpasses are costly, though, and the State and County road departments are not listening much. Would you like to get involved with this project? I have information from other jurisdictions worldwide which supports this.

Lastly I would like to appeal to TROT to take on more responsibility for trail work in this County. TROT has been dedicated to trail preservation for over 20 years, but in today's world preservation goes hand in hand with construction/maintenance. One cannot ask for more trails unless you are willing to participate in their creation and maintenance. Other user groups have banded together to achieve their goals and equestrians are not automatically considered. So join up! As Monty would say!

Thanks for listening to this lengthy update. Meanwhile, ride safely (and not like me who crashed last summer) …….

Naomi Manders, Trail Planner,

M-NCPPC

On the issue of Good Riding and Good Neighbors, we didn't hear from the specific land owner these articles addressed...we did, however, get a letter from another land owner, expressing their views on horseback riding, permission and their property. They asked to remain anonymous, and we respect their wishes.

Dear Trot News Editor,

We are not the owners of the land that has been written about in your past two newsletters. We do, however, own a significant parcel that we have given permission to equestrians to ride on in the past. We have now rescinded our permission to riders and wanted to let the general horse riding public know why.

We live on the outside edge of a Park that allows horseback riding on the trails within the park boundaries. As we, and several of our neighbors on the other side of us, ride into the park on trails that WE CONSTRUCTED AND MAINTAIN running across our property, we thought it would be gracious of us to allow other riders to use our trails to cut across as well. We are routinely approached by a number of newcomers to the area every year to ask if it's okay to ride our trails. Until this past year, people left us notes in our "guest book" that we leave in a weather protected box on both sides of our property, just to let us know who's riding in and out.

Starting last Fall, however, we started seeing strangers riding our trails who had never asked permission and were not registering in our guest book. These people rode our trails when the mud was a foot thick...creating ruts in our gloriously, tenderly created and cleared trails. They rode in the snow, they rode in the rain...our trails now have so much wash out that we will practically have to start over in order to ride them.

We always assumed that equestrians were educated about damage caused by riding when conditions of poor footing exist...not to mention the risk of hurting their horses and themselves. Apparently, they don't care about the land when it's not their property. When the sub-base of any land is damaged, it takes a long time to repair itself. We have ongoing conversations with the Park personnel about maintenance that is required when horses are ridden on trails with poor footing, i.e. muddy or wet conditions. Their job is to keep the trails in the Park rideable, as well as for use by joggers and hikers...they are now campaigning to close these trails to horses because of misuse by the riders.

Our solution has been to gate off the trails on our property, with padlocks. Now, these riders have made their own new trails roughly carved out around the gates. We are extremely tired of being treated discourteously by horse riders whose only goal is to ride in the woods and think this is their right.

The end result? We have rescinded all permission for anyone but the closest friends, who respect the environment to cross our property. The strangers keep coming through, though, and we are considering adding guard dogs to our property. What used to be a lovely existence in our equestrian home in a rural setting has slowly turned into a struggle to protect our property.

We urge all riders to realize that what they do, individually, affects all riders, as a group. How can they expect to preserve where they can ride if this is how they act. They may find that the only riding place they'll have in the future is an indoor ring at a facility they have to rent...because of their abuse of the land.

– anonymous
In Howard County

Debby Poole and her family wanted to let friends know that Chip (husband, father and friend) passed away January 27, 2003, at their home, after a very long and heroic fight with cancer.

And I Quote:

"He who holds a carrot in his mouth to give to his horse earns the nickname "Nolips"
--Mr. Ed, the talking horse

"My horses are my friends, not my slaves."
-- Reiner Klimke

"A pony is a childhood dream, A horse is an adulthood treasure."
-- Rebecca Carroll

"When you're young and you fall off a horse, you may break something. When you're my age and you fall off, you splatter."
— Roy Rogers

Sunday April 27, 2003

Pleasure Trail Ride

Sponsored by Stirrup Club, Yorktown, VA

For more information call 757-887-8988 or e-mail stirrupclub@yahoo.com

Registration forms are also available from the TROT editor

This Month's Recipe

Carrot Apple Oatmeal Treats

3 carrots, chopped into small pieces
3 apples, cut into small pieces
cup of oatmeal

Drench cut-up carrots and apples in molasses

Roll molasses-covered carrots and apples in oats. Shake off excess and refrigerate.

CM Saddle Fitting, The Tack Room, By Chance Farm, and Hickory Knoll Farm have come together to present a Clinic to Benefit The Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program.

There are four events planned for April 26.

- Saddle Fitting Clinic
- Saddle Silent Auction
- Jumping Clinic
- Dressage Clinic

The events begin at 9 am at By Chance Farm, 9205 Bessie Clemson Rd, Union Bridge, MD. There is a $15.00 grounds fee and a negative Coggins is required.

A portion of the proceeds from all four events will be donated to the Therapeutic Riding Program. This is our way of saying thank you for the tireless work, patience, and devotion that the human and equine volunteers put forth each season.

The 4-H Silverado Striders will be selling food. Coffee, Tea, Soda, & Water will be provided at no charge. Participants can sign up for any event by calling 301-471-4325.

Keeping Weight on an Old Horse

PART I

by Carol Petree Iglehart *(Thanks Carol!!!!)*

One of the best ways to care for an old horse is to realize, ahead of time, that old age and its problems happen and make plans for them! Feeding an old horse almost always takes more time and money. Gone are the days when a bale over the fence took care of things. If the horse starts looking a little poor, don't just say to yourself, "He's just old, that's what they look like." Get a vet and a horse dentist to help. Weight loss can happen slowly or rapidly and is almost always related to the condition of the teeth. You might notice that the horse's chewing pattern has changed, he will move his jaw in a different way or his teeth might click together. He may drop wet chewed "cuds" of grass and hay on the ground, eat his hay more slowly and not get enough if fed in a group. He may have trouble picking food up or may drop a lot of it. Besides getting his teeth floated, his diet may be changed so he can take in more calories.

Switching to a softer, leafier second or third cutting hay may work for several years if he can still chew hay. Mixed group feeding makes this more difficult. Younger horses may eat up the high octane hay before the oldie has a chance to get it. Unless the oldie lives alone or in a separate paddock, extra time will be required to feed better hay, isolated from the others, while he finishes his richer hay. Then he can be fed the medium octane hay with the others in the group.

Another way to get higher octane hay into the oldie is to feed soaked alfalfa cubes. I always soak them with water to make them easy to chew, and then stir them to break up all lumps. I remove all lumps not completely softened and resoak with the next lot. Cold water soaking takes 2 hours or more, but very hot water softens them completely in 5-10 minutes. This makes them chewable, but not drinkable. I would never feed them dry. Each 50 lb bag of alfalfa cubes costs more than a 50 lb bale, but is more economical and convenient. It is easy to pick up a bag, put it into your trunk, and store in a trash can. Each meal can be weighed or carefully measured by volume to ensure a consistent amount is fed. With cubes, there is no waste from leaf shatter as there would be with a real bale.

Alfalfa cubes are very dry, and store well. I have never had a problem with mold. They store much longer than any other pelleted commercial feed, and you can use them as a back up to mix with other complete feeds to stretch your supplies when the weather is bad and you haven't been able to get to the store. They are, however, more trouble than just scooping up a complete feed and serving it.

Loose, chopped hay baled in a plastic bale can also be nutritious, but has longer stems which some old horses cannot handle. It also has a lot of waste, even if fed in a tub, and the slightest breeze can blow particles and chaff into the horse's face and nose. You may have to wet it to avoid these problems. Some of these chopped bales have much moisture, easily mold and don't store well.

Eventually, you may have to switch to a complete feed. This may be very gradual over a period of several years as his teeth wear out, or it may happen more rapidly. I believe it would be healthier for the horse to eat a hay or beet pulp based complete feed in addition to whatever hay he can eat, rather than to eat more sweet feed or grain. Be sure to read the feeding instructions carefully and do not overfeed at each meal or your horse may be at risk of colic. Wet the pellets with water and feed them in a large-diameter, smooth-surfaced tub at ground level. Water helps prevent choke and makes the feed easier to chew. The large-diameter tub slows the eating down a little, reducing the colic risk, and gives them more chew time. The smooth surface of the tub makes it easier to lick the platter clean and extends the chew time or in this case, the lick time. Towards the end of the meal the last bit of feed may pack into the edges of the tub. Add a little more water and scrape and stir with a spatula to make it soft enough to be all licked up.

Normally, easy keepers who are losing weight may still be easy keepers, they just need to take in more calories. They may do fine on a pleasure horse maintenance, hay-based pellet. If this doesn't provide enough calories, switch to a senior complete feed. Eventually, the oldie may reach a point where he can no longer pick up the wet pelleted feed. This is when he needs to learn to drink his food. Some horses learn this quickly, but others don't. They must think you are giving them dirty water, not wet food. My oldest horse had trouble with this transition. You would think that someone who had been a professional eater all his life would be motivated to figure it out quickly, but he didn't. He wasn't taking in much food and rapidly lost weight. I ended up feeding him with a large oral dose syringe that had the tip cut off. However, he immediately began putting back on weight and eventually figured out how to drink his food. If you can teach your old horse to drink completely dissolved slop ahead of time, it's easier. This is also a good way to rehydrate a trail horse or to get more water into a horse with an impaction colic. Whichever brand you choose, it must dissolve to a fine enough texture so there are no large pieces that would lodge in his esophagus.

The best way to keep this additional work from being discouraging is to get all of the physical materials to make the job easy. Once you have the routine down, it is easier. It will cost more for a horse to be completely dependant on senior feed. But the trade off is you don't have to buy and story hay or deal with the inconsistencies, dust and mold.

> The article that Carol Petree Iglehart submitted is wonderfully full of details on more tips to dissolve food, how to save time, the routines that work best for her, ways to reduce colic risk, multiple daily feedings, measuring tools, food storage and estimating costs...and we ran out of room to run the entire article...Part II will be featured in June's newsletter...if you can't wait and would like a copy of the entire article, contact the editor and I'll gladly send a copy to you - DSPSFARM@aol.com or 301/854-9763.

And...some news from Virginia

Subject: Tri-County Parkway Web Site Information

The proposed Tri-County Parkway and the (Bull Run) Battlefield Bypass have been hot topics of discussion of late. More information was promised since there has been little discussion of the Battlefield Bypass (not on County Transportation Plans) and not much recent information on the Tri-County Parkway.

The web site address for the Tri-County Parkway: www.virginiadot.org/projects/tcp.asp

To access the map with the Preliminary Alternatives after getting to the web site, go to the topic entitled "Resources." Under "Resources" go to "Updates." Under "Updates" go to the Map of General Study Area. The route labeled Alternative "E" is currently proposed to be a 6-lane road and will run right through Bull Run Regional Park.

VDOT has requested comments from the public. Input from the public will be used to help the study team narrow the solutions and further screen and refine the Preliminary Alternatives for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Now is our chance to let VDOT and our elected representatives know our concerns and suggestions. But, there isn't much time left. The Public Hearing for this road will be held during the 3rd quarter of 2003. After the Public Hearing the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will select a Preferred Alternative and recommend it for final approval to the Federal Highway Administration. Then the decision on where to build the road becomes final.

Please review the map and submit comments to Mr. Ken Wilkinson at tricountyparkway@virginiadot.org or at Ken.Wilkinson@VirginiaDOT.org or fax comments to 804-786-7401 to the attention of Mr. Ken Wilkinson.

New 40 acre park with equestrian Facilities to open in Fairfax County, VA at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Springvale Road. Donations are sought to complete the project by Spring 2004.

Please direct tax deductible contributions to:

Brogue Charities-Turner Farm Equestrian Fund
PO Box 176
Great Falls, VA 22066

The full Conceptual Development Plan for Turner Farm can be found at www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/cdpturnerframe.htm

Equestrian facilities included in the plan are:

1) Large multi-purpose arena (200' x 300')
2) Dressage arena
3) Cross-country course
4) Round/lunging pen
5) Perimeter and secondary bridle trails - to accommodate both riders and drivers
6) Host to 'Lift Me Up' Therapeutic riding program planning an 85' x 185' (minimum) indoor arena. The arena will be available to the general equestrian public. For more information email: turnerfarm@cox.net

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CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Michelle Beachley (301/482-2526) A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

April 26, Sat - Patuxent River State Park, Howard Co.
These trails are some of the most extensive areas of trails you can ride. The pace will be mostly walk/trot and ride time will be up to 4 hours. These are stream valley trails with river crossings. The ride will start at 10:00 AM. Bring a bag lunch, as we will stop on the trail, and something to hold your findings in. Parking is located off Rt. 94. Contact Deneen Martin at 301-253-2955 or Michelle Beachley at 301-482-2526 or webebeachleys@msn.com

April 27, Sun - Union Mills, Carroll Co.
This lovely park has many varied trails-- woods, streams, some hills, and expansive views north to Pennsylvania farmland. Ride for 2 to 3 hours at a walk/trot pace. If people want to ride a bit faster will possibly have a group for that too. May have one road crossing. Contact Cathy McElroy at 410-857-3540.

May 4, Sun,10:00 AM - Potomac Riverside Farm to the C & O Canal, Montgomery Co.
This ride leaves Anna's historic working farm and travels over the fields, past the Polo field, through the woods, and down to the C&O canal towpath, and the Potomac river. There are usually three groups: walk, trot, and canter with a possible snack break at the White's Ferry Store. Anna treats every one to a cookout at her farm after the ride. Covered dishes are welcome. Call Anna Slayman at 301-972-8187.

May 10, Sat - Rocky Gorge Reservoir, Prince Georges Co.
Come ride these gorgeous trails! The views are spectacular as each bend and turn yields a new vista of the river stretching away in the distance. These trails will really make you feel you are far from the maddening crowd, with the possibility of seeing deer, fox, beaver, Osprey, and even Bald Eage.s There will be a walking group and another faster group when the terrain allows. Contact Terry Ledley at 301/776-2661 for more information. Rain date Sun., May 11.

May 31, Sat - Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co.
This interesting and versatile park has woods, fields, a Boy Scout Campground, and a one-room schoolhouse with a swinging bridge. This park is a very popular riding destination. The ride will be approx. 3-3 ½ hours with a walk/trot pace. Bring a bag-lunch for trailer talk after the ride! Parking is located behind the Little Bennett Golf Course. Call Mimi Ernst for more information at 301-416-2388.

June 1, Sun - Green horse/Green Rider trail day. 11:00 am.
Pat Merson has volunteered the use of her farm to help you and/or your horse gain trail experience. This is a schooling day for horses and riders that do not have much trail riding experience or the seasoned rider looking for something different. All ages are welcome (what a perfect way to introduce young riders!). The pace will be slow to allow both horse and rider to gain confidence over, around and even under obstacles (natural and man-made). We will also talk about basic trail guidelines along the way. Seasoned riders and horses will lead the ride and be there to assist. Please contact Pat Merson at 301-898-3251 or at Lilgreyhrs@aol.com . Space is limited to 14 riders.

June 7, Sat - Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick Co. - 10:00 am
These trails should be quite pretty at this time of the year with wild flowers in bloom and some very nice views. Most of the trails are fine but may be some rocky places going from one set to the next so recommend front shoes or easy boots. There can be some climbs up the mountain as well. There is the possibility of different groups at different paces, but otherwise expect slow to moderate. Ride time will be 2 to 2-1/2 hours. Contact Monica Breland at 301/972-7454.

June 8, Sun - Judged Pleasure Ride - McKeldin Area, Patapsco Valley State Park

June 22, Sun - Potomac Area, Montgomery Co.
Sheila O'Donnell will lead a trotting ride from Lisa Gordon's Hunt View Farm on Stoney Creek Road along streets into Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park to the Potomac Horse Center. The ride will also traverse PEPCO power lines and adjoining neighborhoods so horses should be accustomed to walkers, bikes, dogs, and quiescent construction equipment, as well as a possible horse show in progress. There will be some steep hills so be sure your horse can manage a few of these. Ride time will be about 2-1/2 hours and limited to 10 riders. Contact Sheila at 202/431-9471.

For any feedback, suggestions or comments regarding scheduled rides, contact Michelle Beachley, TROT's Trail Ride Coordinator, at 301-482-2526 or via email (webebeachleys@msn.com).

The Paint Branch Ride March 23, 2003
Hosted by Mary Prowell

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

* * * * * * * * * *

How about a trade? I have no trailer and want very much to go on "away" TROT rides – or just "away." In return, I know the Patapsco River trail system and can be your guide. Slow rides early in year, as horse out of condition & 22 yrs old.
Contact Judith.
410-442-7610 or 202-712-5399
p.s. He's 17 H & 1500 lbs!!!

* * * * * * * * * *

Hi – I live in Shepherdstown, WV (near Charlestown & Harpers Ferry). I have several horses with varying trail experience, and I am looking for a trail riding buddy (or buddies) to ride with on the weekends. Sundays are best for me, but I can do Saturdays if I plan ahead. Right now me & my horses are basically too out of shape for anything fast or strenuous, but I would like to start going on some low-impact rides and work on getting into condition. I can ride almost every weekend, have use of a trailer and don't mind travelling an hour or two, and I'm always on the look-out for trails closer to home too. I would also like to explore some new trails – I've heard that Patuxent and Patapsco are great if anyone is familiar with those areas. I especially like trails that offer a variety of nice scenery, stream crossings, small jumps, etc.
If interested, please call me at 304/876-1975 or email to Dpotter@TherImmune.com

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Mom's Horse

by Carol Petree Iglehart

When Mom was growing up in Harrisville, WV, her father bought her a horse. There was a local man who was going bankrupt and had to sell everything. So, an auction was held. A horse was part of the auction. Mom's father, Victor Cooper, bid on the horse and bought it. Then he looked into the horse's eyes and realized that the horse was probably going to go blind in the future. The man who had owned the horse didn't realize this. Victor bought the horse anyway because it was otherwise a nice horse and the man needed the money. Mom said she had many happy hours riding the horse on the trails by the river near the town. The horse did go blind, but Mom continued to ride, as the horse seemed to do OK and knows its way around.

One day she road the horse to the blacksmith's shop to have the horse's shoes removed, which had been on all winter. She rode bareback and carried a gunny sack to carry the shoes home in. The smith took the shoes off and put them into the sack. Mom got on and began to ride home with the gunny sack of shoes slung over her shoulder. The horse was so happy to have its shoes off, it began to speed up. Then it began to run. Mom hung on for dear life as the blind horse galloped through the town. The gunny sack of horse shoes pounded on her back with every leap the horse took. She didn't want to drop the sack and lose the shoes, but she was bareback and only had one hand to hold on with. She hung onto the bag as long as she could, then finally dropped it. The horse kept on galloping all the way home, making all the right turns and didn't bump into anything!

SADDLE CREEK

PREMIER EQUESTRIAN FACILITY AND COMMUNITY

Saddle Creek, located in rural Brandywine, Maryland, is a 518 acre complex with an equestrian component and will have several miles of riding trails and stables. The trail will connect to the 1,000 plus acre Louise Cosca Regional Park, which has miles of trails, as well.

The complex will leave approximately 310 acres or nearly 60% of the total area in Open Space. An area over 125 acres in green area is in the Piscataway Floodplain with it's tributary streams. There will be over 400 homes encircled by trails and woods.

We are looking for a site manager/operator for the facility. We will welcome Home Buyers in 2004.

LAND & COMMERCIAL, INC.
14416 Old Mill Road, #201
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Metro: 301-952-9700 · 1-800-296-7901
www.LandCommercial.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROT News, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is May 25th.
Make checks out to TROT. Type or print your ad, 38 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

BELLE COTE FARM has several horses and tack for sale. Can board or deliver. 301/384-5267.

Breast Collar for sale. Nearly new, used once. Single strap, eventer style (attaches at d rings), mahogany brown with elastic. $20 Call 301/854-9763.

Get your horse massaged by The Horse Helper. "Happiness is a happy horse." Call Carol Petree Iglehart 301/775-0379. Please leave your message on my voice mail.

Horse for Lease - Free lease your home; OR $150 my home (includes everything from tack to farrier). 16.2 TB Bay Gelding, 21 yr old schoolmaster. Former Olympic level eventer that is totally sound, sane and easy to ride. I just don't have the time to ride 2 horses and he needs the exercise. I live near New Market, MD. Please email me at charbonnea@adelphia.net or call Susan 301/865-3399.

WANTED TO BUY: Hunter type - Thoroughbred cross horse for teenage rider to do local shows. Requirements: Sound, needs to be very quiet, no vices and be able to do hunter jumps up to 3 ft. MUST DO LEAD CHANGES. Call Cindy 301/482-0664 or Pam at Hill Valley Stables 301/253-0837.

***This is YOUR newsletter*...we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:
Gale Monahan, President (301-854-3852)
Tim McGrath, Vice President (301-428-8216)
Pat Merson, Secretary (301-898-3251)
Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301-829-0949)

Directors/Board Members:
Kathy Dobson (410-747-2015)
Marilyn Miller (301-898-7274)
Jack Monahan (301-854-3852)
Deneen Martin (301-253-2955)
Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer
Trail Ride Coordinator: Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)
Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (1-800-292-3547)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page Master: George and Lisa Graff

County Coordinators:
Carroll – Anne Bennof
Howard – Gale Monahan
Frederick – Pat Merson
Montgomery – Tim McGrath
Prince George's – Mary Angevine

HEALTH ISSUES ...

The Information Exchange

From Our Members!

The Skinny, Toothless Wonder Ration

In a 7 quart bucket, mix:
1 quart beet pulp w/molasses
1 quart alfalfa pellets
1 cup rice bran
½ cup corn oil
Add warm water ¾ full, stir and let sit for 10 minutes. Add 1 quart equine senior feed on top.

Fed twice a day. This should pile on some pounds! This ration is for a connemara pony/arabian-size equine and submitted by protem@juno.com. Thanks!

* * * * * * * * * *

I have an old horse blanket which needs dry cleaning, not laundering. Does anyone know any place I can get this done? Thanks. Janet Breeding 410/795-4262 or gbarb@qis.net.

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

Millhaven Farm

5830 rolling drive
derwood, md (near olney)

Beautiful, clean boarding facility Friendly boarders - Quality horse care
Direct access to M-NCPPC trails & fields
Indoor arena, hot water wash stalls - Outdoor ring
Owner, staff live on premises
$425/month
Instruction with Sally Bradbury/outside trainers welcome! For boarding information, call 301/963-0630.

Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society

All of the below listed rides are located at Artillery Ridge Campground, Gettysburg, PA

Sunday, 6/1/03, 10 am
Spring Guided Ride
Ride w/a Historical Licensed Guide on the trails of the National Battlefield
Cost: $20 includes lunch
Pre-registration required
Julie Hughes 410/346-6151

Sunday, 9/7/03, 9 am
Horse and Rider Fun Day
Fun & game classes
Steve Cooper 717/624-4472
Dave Landis 717/637-1918

Sunday, 10/5/03, 10 am
Fall Guided Ride
Ride w/a Historical Licensed Guide on the trails of the National Battlefield Cost: $20 includes lunch
Pre-registration required
Julie Hughes 410/346-6151

We are a non-profit organization and these events are fund raisers. All profits are used to maintain and preserve the equestrian trails in the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park.

Sunday Hunting Alert - House Bill (HB) 679

HB 679 allows a licensed hunter who is on private land with written permission to hunt on all Sundays in November, as well as the Sundays during December's firearms season. For 2003, this amounts to six consecutive Sundays. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery & Prince George's counties; cities of Frederick & Baltimore; southeast Frederick Co are excluded. But even if you reside in these areas, please support those in the affected areas - plus you enjoy the outdoors throughout the state, right?

Please call, write, e-mail your legislator right away. And contact members of the House Environmental Matters Committee, who will be hearing this bill. (If it passes the House committee, it will then go to the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, so let them know your opposition if the bill reaches that Committee.) In your contacts with legislators, keep it polite, short and to the point. Speak from the heart, in your own words. Some points to consider:

Safety

Many trails wander from public to private land and back again. Boundaries are vague. Other trails closely border private land. Bullets and arrows do not respect boundaries.

Many who enjoy the outdoors do not feel safe doing so in the presence of hunters armed with lethal weapons. As one horseback rider put it: "How safe would you feel riding in the woods on a brown animal?"

But it is not only horseback riders who are endangered. Bird watchers, hikers, bikers, joggers, Scout groups, canoers/kayakers, families, orienteerers, dog walkers, landowners - all have expressed the need for at least one day a week when they can safely enjoy the outdoors during hunting season.

Claims that hunting does not endanger non-hunters are unsubstantiated and skewed. Accidents happen, but no reporting is required. Many people who would otherwise be in the woods stay away.

Equity

Non-hunters deserve at least one weekend day to enjoy outdoors during hunting season.
For most working people, weekends are time for leisure activities. Presently, hunters get to enjoy Saturday; everybody else gets Sunday.
Organized events & activities - trail rides, hikes, birding walks, bike rides, picnics, orienteering tests, canoe/kayak trips, etc. - are currently scheduled on Sundays to avoid hunters.
The shared weekend system that currently exists seems the best compromise. Non-hunters should be able to at least continue to enjoy the status quo -- Safe Sundays.

No Need

The current statewide deer hunting season lasts from mid-September through January (hunting for other species goes beyond). During deer hunting season -- some of the most beautiful times of the year -- hunters are already out six days a week for 4 1/2 months.

It has been estimated that knowledgeable deer hunters can take nearly 30 deer each if they hunt throughout the state using various weapons - bow, firearms, muzzleloader - and avail themselves of special hunts, crop damage permits, etc. Therefore, there are ample hunting opportunities without Sunday hunting.

Such bills usually claim to be aimed at controlling deer herds. Actually, they have nothing to do with herd management. It is entirely a matter of allowing hunters more days to enjoy their sport.

Protect the status quo - keep Sundays safe!

More Firearms! - House Bill (HB 337)

HB 337 mandates that the deer firearms season shall be 21 days. But the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) already has authority to adjust seasons and bag limits according to their biological research on deer population in various regions. In fact, two additional days of deer firearms hunting were introduced this year in two of the four regions. By mandating 21 days, the Legislature would force DNR to institute 21 days of deer firearm in all regions, regardless of deer population differences.

Please call, write, e-mail your legislator right away regarding this bill. And contact members if the House Environmental Matters Committee, who will be hearing this bill. (If it passes the House Committee, it will then go to the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, so let them know your opinion if the bill reaches that Committee.)

In your contacts with legislators, keep it polite, short and to the point. Speak from the heart, in your own words. Some points to consider:

- Many non-hunters enjoy the outdoors during the cool weather months. These include horseback riders, bird watchers, hikers, bikers, joggers, Scout groups, canoers/kayakers, families, orienteers, dog walkers, landowners, etc. We are not safe in the outdoors in the presence of guns.
- For those of us who love the outdoors, we would forever have to endure 21 days of deer firearm throughout the state - in addition to muzzleloader.
- There are currently 19 days of deer muzzleloader hunting. Muzzleloaders are guns. Plus there's a junior firearm day. So, we already have over 30 days of shooting.
- There is no need to legislate an increase.

Enough!

Information on how to contact your Maryland representatives were in February's issue of TROT News...if you need that information again, contact the editor!

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Updated: April 25, 2003

Editor: Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email: DSPSFARM@aol.com

trot
NEWS
Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

June 2003

Number 142

Governor Ehrlich Signs Sunday Hunting Bill

Governor Ehrlich has ended our 280-year heritage of Safe Sundays during hunting season.

As originally introduced in the legislature, House Bill 679 would have given hunters on private land all Sundays in November, as well as the Sundays during December's firearms season – six Sundays this year and seven next. Six counties were excluded.

TROT and other opponents presented testimony before both the House of Delegates and the Senate, and we worked very hard to encourage letters, e-mails, phone calls, etc. to delegates, senators and the Governor.

Through amendments, the number of days was reduced and more counties were excluded from the Sunday hunting provisions of the bill.

So, here's what the final bill says:

There will be hunting on private land on the first Sunday of November and the first Sunday of the deer firearms season. For 2003, that's November 2 and November 30. The following counties are excluded (no Sunday hunting in these counties): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

Remember, this bill is the foot in the door that will enable more hunting on more Sundays in future years. DNR, which championed this bill, will be reporting back to the Legislature in January, and we can expect that they will ask for more. We should expect a bill next year allowing more Sundays and extending to some or all of the currently excluded counties.

Anne Bennof

THE FUTURE OF TROT ?

by the editor!

Many of you know I am a fairly new recruit as the editor of the TROT newsletter. A year-and-a-half under my belt and some great experiences with many members of TROT -- ridden many of the trails and met some great people. Some things need to be said, though, as I believe the future of TROT is in question!

One of the issues, apparent to me, is that very few people are involved, actually involved performing tasks! Our membership consists of between 700 to 1000 people throughout the year. Out of that number, only a handful of people volunteer for various duties. There is much work to do, and it is all being done by a very small number of people. If even half of our membership would volunteer to do one thing this year, it would relieve the burden of others having to try to do it all.

I wanted to share with the readership an email I received from Gale Monahan, President of TROT...expressing her frustration. We were emailing back and forth about various issues and she asked me if I knew of anyone who wanted to take over as president of TROT!

Her exact words were "Do you know anyone who wants this job? Six years is a little more than enough."

This followed an email I received earlier stating that the TROT sponsored Judged Pleasure Ride (scheduled for June 8, 2003) was in danger of being cancelled because of a lack of volunteers and nobody available to take care of business!

Every organization needs a leader...every organization needs people interested in maintaining the status quo of the original goals it set out to accomplish. TROT has been instrumental in maintaining many trails, keeping many trails open, establishing new trails and dealing with the politics involved in each aspect of what it takes to do this.

TROT basically exists through the efforts of its Directors, Board Members and other leaders...specifically, Gale Monahan, President; Tim McGrath, Vice President; Pat Merson, Secretary; Anne Bennof, Treasurer; Kathy Dobson; Marilyn Miller; Jack Monahan; Deneen Martin; Michelle Beachley; Linda Eminizer; Suzanne Anderson; Karen Alexander; George Graff; Mary Angevine; Naomi Manders. A handful of WONDERFULLY, COMMITTED people looking out for TROT, its members and the future of the organization (if I have erroneously not included your name, please forgive me!). These folks CARE about TROT, trails, the membership and horses! What about the rest of you? When was the last time you strove to attend a board meeting? clear a trail? repair a bridge? write a letter about a bill threatening the existence of horse riding trails? be a judge at the pleasure ride? serve as an Officer? join the TROT Board of Directors? anything?

That having been said, I emailed Gale back and said if she were serious about finding a new President for TROT, maybe we should list the duties in the newsletter and see if we could generate some interest...this is the response I received:

"As far as finding someone to be president, people are not volunteering for anything. I need a Howard County Coordinator also. I have been on the Board for about 10 years with 6 of those years being president. I have asked people to volunteer at the annual pot luck every year, I have written requests in the newsletter telling people this is their organization and it needs you to step up to the plate. We need new ideas, new ways to look at things and folks who have the energy to pursue what TROT is all about, to preserve trails in Maryland. No one is coming forward. It worries me that the organization [that has been working so hard to keep trails for everyone] is going to die without any of its 800 members stepping forward. Without organizations like TROT, we will lose trails every year to where all you have is a back yard or stable with an arena to ride in."

IS THIS ENOUGH SAID?...PLEASE PEOPLE, GET INVOLVED! **The future of TROT is hanging in the balance.** Do you want to have your trails preserved? Volunteer, there are jobs to be done...**we NEED YOU!**

This Month's Recipe

Cinnamon Spice Cookies

6 c. bran
2 c. oatmeal
2 c. cracked corn
2 c. flour
1 c. sugar
2 t. cinnamon

2 eggs
16 oz. sweetened apple juice
2/3 c. molasses
6 T. corn oil
2 T. salt

Preheat oven to 325 F. Mix all ingredients and form into dough (will be very sticky). Roll the dough into one or two-inch balls. Place on greased cookie sheets and bake for 45 minutes or until they are dry and crisp.

Keeping Weight on an Old Horse
PART II

by Carol Petree Iglehart (Thanks Carol!!!!)

Feeding any horse requires knowledge and good sense. When feeding a complete senior feed to an old horse it is important to read the label and also know your own horse. Getting enough food into the horse without making him sick by feeding too much at once can be a challenge. Senior feed contains less carbohydrates than sweet feed and can, thus, be fed in larger amounts without a greater chance of founder.

Let's examine "know your horse" by the following examples:

25 year old with worn teeth, but very little tooth loss who cannot chew hay or grass, but can pick up and chew a senior feed. Does not over eat. His eating pattern is to eat 1-2 quarts when first fed and then nibble the rest of the day. Must be kept separate to allow him hours of slow eating. This horses is the easiest to take care of as long as he doesn't pine for other horses if left in a paddock by himself. Can be fed a large amount in a very large tub twice a day. Most of the food cannot be wet down as it would probably spoil since it is eaten so slowly.

26 year old with unevenly worn teeth and tooth loss who can still eat hay and grass, but cannot maintain weight on these alone. This horse needs more frequent dental work to counteract uneven tooth wear. Benefits greatly from second and third cutting hay and longer grass. Lime and fertilize the pasture to try to get more out of it. Section off a portion of the pasture and let it grow longer. Then let only this horse onto it for a short time each day. Avoid old tough grass and coarse hay. Eats three senior meals a day with water added to make chewing easier and to prevent choke. Amount of feed needed varies with the season since grass can still be eaten. Pines if left in a stall or kept separate from the herd. Eats better if a companion is in next stall. Still ridable with lots of zip. Cannot ride right after a senior feed.

Older, ridable founder survivor with some tooth loss. Amount of complete feed needed varies in type and amount depending of the season. Monitor daily for laminitis. Can eat grass, but should be muzzled in the spring and fall when out on any grass or when out on the big pasture. Feed complete feed and grass hay in stall, then put on grazing muzzle and turn out. Feed a low octane pleasure horse maintenance feed when the grass is growing fast and to avoid a food-rich total diet to prevent laminitis. Switch gradually to either a part low octane maintenance pellet and part high octane senior feed, or to all senior feed when grass is poor depending on how much the horse weighs. Always add water to the feed. Feed grass hay 2 to 3x a day all year round as long as it can be chewed. Do not let this horse get fat.

30 plus unridable, blind horse with extreme tooth wear. Cannot pick up or chew anything. Must drink his food. Adding water to feed ensures good hydration, but increases the volume of the meal, so he needs four meals a day to take in enough feed. The feed bag instructions say 3 meals a day with 5# per meal as the safe upper limit. He would never be able to do this. 3-1/4# is the largest meal he can take in. Keep extra gallon jugs of water and a spatula near the stall. Stir his food to keep it from settling and add water and stir when he is almost done to help him drink all of it. Rinse old feed out of bucket so it won't create a sour smell. Use warm water when the weather is cold. Remove anything the blind horse might hit his head or eyes on, such as low tree limbs in paddock and wooden mangers in the stall. Always place the feed in the same place in the stall in a way that it won't spill. A wide tub is more steady than a bucket. But a tub could also be used as a platform to set a bucket onto, making it less likely that the bucket will tip over. This works well unless the horse plays with the bucket. This horse is totally dependant on you for feed. He needs to be fed regularly, even on the weekends. If a meal is delayed too long, he may feel weak and might stumble.

Very fat, easy keeper completely dependent on senior feed. If you reduce the amount of senior feed to reduce his weight, you also reduce the amount of fiber in the gut. This may make the horse uncomfortably hungry. Even worse, the gut may not get enough stimulation and slow down, eventually resulting in a colic. You can substitute maintenance feed for some of the senior feed to keep the total combination by weight equal or slightly greater. As horses age their digestion becomes less efficient and their needs may change. Be ready to change your routine when he needs it.

Appetite can be encouraged by using clean feed and buckets, fresh water, warm water in winter, changing brands to change the flavor and increasing the amount of fiber by adding some pleasure horse maintenance feed. Gut sounds can be raised, resulting in improved appetite, by giving Mylanta.

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526) A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

June 22, Sunday, Potomac Area, Montgomery Co.
Sheila O'Donnell will lead a trotting ride from Lisa Gordon's Hunt View Farm on Stoney Creek Road along streets into Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park to the Potomac Horse Center. The ride will also traverse PEPCO power lines and adjoining neighborhoods so horses should be accustomed to walkers, bikes, dogs, and quiescent construction equipment, as well as a possible horse show in progress. There will be some steep hills so be sure your horse can manage a few of these. Ride time will be about 2-1/2 hours and limited to 10 riders. Contact Sheila at 202/431-9471.

July 5, Saturday, Catoctin Mountains, Frederick Watershed, Fred. Co.
This ride will climb the mountain ridge north of Frederick and head eastward. This area will give you a good idea of what mountain riding is all about. Shoes are strongly recommended and the pace will mostly be at a walk. This is a rocky trail. Marilynn Miller 301/898-7274.

July 8, Tuesday, TROT Board Meeting at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

July 13, Sunday, Rocky Gorge Reservoir, P.G. Co.
Come ride these gorgeous trails! The views are spectacular as each bend and turn yields a new vista of the river stretching away in the distance. These trails will really make you feel you are far from the maddening crowd, with the possibility of seeing deer, fox, beaver, Osprey, and even Bald Eagles! There will be a walking group and another faster group when the terrain allows. Contact Terry Ledley at 301/776-2661 for more information.

July 19, Saturday, Morgan Run Park, Carroll Co.
Rain date Sunday, July 20. Ride through woods into open fields in this Carroll County park. Call Doris Kulp for the particulars at 301/271-0226.

August 12, Tuesday, TROT Board Meeting at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

September 9, Tuesday, TROT Board Meeting at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

For any feedback, suggestions or comments regarding scheduled rides, contact Michelle Beachley, TROT's Trail Ride Coordinator, at 301/482-2526 or via email (webebeachleys@msn.com).

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

* * * * * * * * * *

Hi- I live in Bel Air, MD which is located in Harford County, approx 35 minutes north of Baltimore. I have a Tennessee Walker that has some trail experience and I am looking for a buddy to ride with in Harford/Baltimore/Cecil County area. I have a flexible schedule - I can ride weekends, weekdays or evenings. I have a trailer and don't mind driving to meet up with someone. I frequently ride at Susquehanna Park and Fair Hill. If interested, please call me at 410-236-1740.

What is it YOU want from TROT? As one of the focuses of this newsletter is to ask you to volunteer, it also seems appropriate for you to let TROT know what you think! Are there new programs you would like to see in place? Would you volunteer for an activity if it were presented differently? What would encourage you to become involved? What do you like or not like about the way TROT runs, operates, etc.?

Send your suggestions or emails to the editor...anonymously or not, up to you. How could TROT change? Would you be willing to help? How do you see yourself benefitting from TROT in the future? What would you like to see happen?

CALIFORNIA RANCH MANAGER -- sought for large ranch in California. Must have significant ranch experience, knowledge of horses, excellent riding skills and be able to supervise ranch hands.
Resume to (Fax) 570-842-4445 or e-mail to:
judyg@appletreemanagement.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROTNews, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is July 25th. Make checks out to TROT. Type or print your ad, 70 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

Meadowbrook Pony Cart with Harness - Excellent condition, used for showing, road driving, or just having fun. Fits small pony up to 13 hands. Can email pictures. Webehunts@direcWay.com or 301/854-5080.

Imperial Sahbaj (Ibn Safina X Glorieta Maarqesa) is a **15.1 hh, 14-year-old grey purebred Egyptian Arabian**, bred at Imperial Egyptian Stud. Sahbaj has many Pony Club and 4H miles and would be great for an intermediate rider. Baj has a beautiful floating trot and excellent conformation; he is in good weight, an easy keeper, and gets along well with other horses. He has no vices and has a sweet even temperament. A good home is a must. $5,000. Contact us: 301-834-8920.
(Email: urburnt toast@hotmail.com for photos).

Two Mature Morgans for Sale: Excellent trail horses. Also drive. Used for Search Team. 410/531-6652.

Horse cart and leather harness. Amish made. Fits small to medium horse. $500 OBO for both. **Crosby Wembly II saddle** good condition, 17" $600. 1970 **Horse van** $3,000. Holds 2-3 horses very comfortably, can hold 5. Engine replaced, much work done, runs. I would not be selling it if I was still riding. **New Zealand turnout** rug, fits small horse, almost new, exc. cond. $50. **Anti-sweat sheet**, cotton, good cond. $10. Kirsten 410-867-0798 or 301-261-9023.

Saddle – Collegiate Marathon 16-½ inch trail/endurance saddle. Padded seat, extended panels, fiberglass tree, light weight. Stirrups and stirrup leathers and saddle pad included. State Line Tack sells it for $985.50. Asking $450. Call Gale at 301-854-3852.

***This is YOUR newsletter*...we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:
Gale Monahan, President (301-854-3852)
Tim McGrath, Vice President (1-800-292-3547)
Pat Merson, Secretary (301-898-3251)
Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301-829-0949)

Directors/Board Members:
Kathy Dobson (410-747-2015)
Marilyn Miller (301-898-7274)
Jack Monahan (301-854-3852)
Deneen Martin (301-253-2955)
Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer
Trail Ride Coordinator: Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)
Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (1-800-292-3547)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page: George and Lisa Graff

County Coordinators:
Carroll – Anne Bennof
Howard – Gale Monahan
Frederick – Pat Merson
Montgomery – Tim McGrath
Prince George's – Mary Angevine

HEALTH ISSUES ...

The Information Exchange

From Our Members!

Nobody sent any information in to exchange this month!

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

Chesapeake Trail Riding Club, Inc.
30 & 50 mile competitve rides
ECTRA sanctioned
Date: 30-mile ride, Saturday, 8/30/03
Date: 50-mile ride, 30 miles ridden Saturday and 20 miles on Sunday, 8/31/03
Location: Fair Hill Natural Resource Area (nearest large town is Newark, DE)
For fee and other information, contact Linda Smith (410) 838-4747
or email lasmithy@yahoo.com

September 21, 2003

Judged Pleasure Trail Ride

(3rd of 5 in Crystal Crown Competition)
Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville, VA
Clifton Horse Society
703-222-8253 or email: wkime@cox.net

The Gettysburg Quarterly article states the horse trail project to begin in June at the Gettysburg Military Park.
Volunteers will begin to improve horse trails through the central section of the battlefield during a 2 week project from Taneytown Road to Hancock Ave and from Emmittsburg Rd. to the Virginia Memorial.
To volunteer call 717-334-5533.

[excerpts from] A Letter from your Horse

Dear Rider, When you are tense, let me teach you to relax;
When you are self absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things;
When you are lonely, let me be your companion;
and the reality check:
When you are tense, let me teach you that there are lions in them thar woods, and we need to leave NOW!
When you are self absorbed, let me teach you to PAY ATTENTION. Remember? I told you about those lions in them thar woods?
When you are lonely, let me be your companion. Let's do lunch. Also, breakfast and dinner.

Sincerely,
Your Horse

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TROT

Trail Riders of Today

TROT News - August 2003

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Editor:Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email:DSPSFARM@aol.com
August 2003

trot
NEWS
Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT
Number 143

TROT'S JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE!

Many clubs had rides postponed this year due to muddy conditions and high waters...and ours was no exception...but here it is!

Come join us on Saturday, September 27, 2003

We need as many volunteers as possible to help out. Please see the JPTR page on this site for more details.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter! Horse people are the best and we have lots to share and work to accomplish! Why not get out your note pad now, before starting to peruse this newsletter...so you can make notes about all the things that need to be done in our horse community and how you can help!

Search Team FINDS New Members

By Suzanne Anderson

A great big Welcome to 20 (that's Twenty!) new trainees on the TROT Search Team. I am just so excited about this. Signing on for search training with the only mounted team in Maryland are these wonderful TROT riders:

Dorothy Anderson
Karen Brown
Chris Conner
Jacquie Cowan
Marjan Davis
Mark Drummond
Virginia Feeks
Pete Fields
Juanita L. Hayes
Phyllis Johnson
Amy Kimble
John Miller
Michele McGuinness
Laurie L. Platt
Lisa Potter
John Proudman
Don Shewbridge
Zoe Sollenbergerx
Rick Solomon
Valerie Vollmers

All of these wonderful people have now completed the TROT Search Team Horse and Rider Evaluations. This is a very basic set of riding skills we set each prospective member and horse to do, such as, does the horse stand quietly tied to the trailer for 30 minutes? Other typical trail obstacle class skills are also employed: backing up, weaving through pools while reining with one hand, crossing a wooden bridge, passing through fetlock deep mud, or knee deep water, crossing a busy road safely, and leaving the herd.

Kathy Dobson, TROT-9, hosted the first Evaluation date at her place, and we evaluated 12 horses. The next location was the Patuxent River Park in Croom, overseen by Tomi` Finkle, TROT-2. Lt. Barry Lees of the Maryland State Police also attended, part of his program to get to know the different search teams in the state and how they operate. He was impressed by the professionalism and horsemanship skills everyone demonstrated. And our final evaluation was held at Schooley Mill Park, my favorite place to take folks on an evaluation ride.

The next stage for our trainees is multi-leveled. Some of our new trainees need to acquire CPR certification and Basic First Aid. All trainees will begin work in the field, learning how to read and use a topographic map, getting briefed on how to use VHF and FRS radios, and different ways to pack the essential and required gear on horseback. This winter, we plan to arrange a Fundamentals of Search and Rescue (FunSAR!) course. This 40 hour course concludes with the written NASAR SAR Tech III (the introductory level); acquiring a SAR Tech III certification is a requirement in the TROT Search Team Standards to become an operational member.

Our trainees have lots of work ahead. If you meet them on the trail or at meetings, wish them luck and congratulate them for applying themselves to a worthwhile community service.

This Month's Recipe

Easy Horse Cookies

1 cup carrot grated
1 apple grated
2 Tablespoons corn oil
1/4 cup molasses
1 tsp. salt
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease cookie sheet. In a large bowl, mix carrot, apple, corn oil and molasses together. Then fold in salt, oats and flour until well mixed. Spread dough out in one big piece on the cookie sheet. Score dough with a knife to make it easier to break apart after baking. (Or, roll dough out and cut with cookie cutters) Bake for 20 minutes or until brown. Let cool, break apart and serve.

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526) A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

August --- No TROT Board Meeting will be held in August.

September 9, Tuesday: - TROT Board Meeting at new time & location – 7:00 PM (NOT the usual 7:30) at Woodlawn in Montgomery County. Hosted by Deneen Martin. Call her for directions - 301-253-2955.

September 27, Saturday: TROT Judged Pleasure Ride, Pavilion C. McKeldin Area, Patapsco Valley State Park.

For any feedback, suggestions or comments regarding scheduled rides, contact Michelle Beachley, TROT's Trail Ride Coordinator, at 301/482-2526 or via email (webebeachleys@msn.com).

Rocky Gorge Reservoir Ride

.....by Terry Ledley

Well, it finally stopped raining, and we had a lovely day for our rescheduled TROT ride on the Rocky Gorge watershed. We had a perfect size turnout of 18 riders who gathered early for doughnuts and juice, provided by Bob and helped by Griff. We were really pleased to be joined by Terry Perrell a Watershed Patrol Officer, and were especially thankful to the WSSC for waiving the daily permit fee for our group ride. My son Fred and his family, who were visiting, came to see us off and take pictures. The group split evenly into a walking group, which I led, and a walk-trot group, led by Barbara and Denis Webb.

At the start of the ride we paused to appreciate the sign naming the "Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail" of which I am very proud. Everyone enjoyed the spectacular views along the reservoir, which is extremely high and very scenic. My group dealt with one horse who needed some coaxing to cross the streams, of which there are many. But finally there was one he would not dare negotiate, so Priscilla Huffman split off and took three riders back along a non-watery route. The slow group met up with the faster group at the lunch stop, along the lovely waterfalls at Aitcheson Creek. A varied return route including the shoreline "fisherman's" trail led us back to the boat ramp at Supplee. All involved were enthused about the ride and the magnificent Rocky Gorge watershed area. It was a real pleasure to lead this ride.

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails

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Let us know if you're searching for a new riding buddy!

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Arab/Morgan - papered **bay mare, 10 yrs,** 15 h; used for trails. Great for intermediate rider or confident beginner. Easy keeper, great feet, very sweet. $2500/offer. Elizabeth 410-442-5006.

Mr. Beautiful - Flashy **Arabian gelding. Chestnut with long flaxen mane & tail.** Blaze and knee-high stockings. **14.2.** Low-mileage 18 y.o. Has been shown and lightly trail ridden. Sound. No vices. Stands for vet & farrier. Trailers. Clips. Needs experienced rider. Good home a must. Anne 301-829-0949.

MORGAN RUN NEA ….the rest of the story

On April 3, 2003, Bruce Wilkins (Assistant Manager, Patapsco Valley State Park) phoned me to advise that due to budget constraints, the trails at Morgan Run NEA would not be mowed and the spot-a-pot would not be returned to the Ben Rose Lane parking lot. (The pot was removed in the fall of 2002 during the hunting season, when it was moved to the McKeldin Area.)

The trails at Morgan Run NEA are primarily mowed trails that started as patrol vehicle access paths. In effect, if the trails aren't mowed, the area is not accessible to park users. In warm weather, no one enjoys venturing into the hazards of tall grass and overgrown trails, on foot or on horseback.

It was time to call volunteers to action via an article in the Equiery. The community needed a liaison to the PVSP management and the Carroll County Equestrian Council answered that call. Each month, the CCEC meeting minutes reflect the latest developments pertaining to Morgan Run NEA and PVSP.

Recently, Ranger Jerry Kirkwood (formerly of Gunpowder Falls State Park) joined PVSP as Northern Regional Manager on temporary assignment. He is responsible for the McKeldin Area, Soldiers Delight NEA and Morgan Run NEA and can be reached at the McKeldin office 410-442-1454.

I am very proud to report that several members of the CCEC and others in the community have come forward to do something to help at Morgan Run NEA.

Let's acknowledge their contributions here. Thanks go to:

- Janet Breeding for mowing the parking lot.
- Fugawe Trail Riders (Jack Farmer, Ronald Livesay, Harry Desmond, Rick Farmer, Walt Tegeler) for mowing the parking lot and trails in June and July.
- Fugawe Trail Riders for the spot-a-pot for May - June.
- Karen Jacobs (CCEC) $ 73 for spot-a-pot for June-July.
- Piedmont Pacers (Volksmarch Club) for $250.
- Dick & Tish Rupert for $25.

If you'd like to take a proactive approach to help keep the trails accessible at Morgan Run NEA you can. . .

- Use hand pruners as you and your friends ride the trails.
- Send money. (Checks payable to CCEC, mail to 225 N. Center St., Westminster, MD 21157. Mark "For Morgan Run" on the check.)
- Put Sunday, October 5, 2003 on your calendar and be there for the trail work day from 9 a.m. until noon. Bring your own equipment/tools.
- All of the above.

To make a difference, contact Carolyn A. Garber via email at cagarber@hotmail.com or by phone 410-549-5141.

More Carroll County News:

TROT TO ASSIST IN MORGAN RUN. On July 19, the TROT Board of Directors voted to pay for the Porta Pot at Morgan Run through the end of the year. Without the TROT sponsorship, this necessary convenience would have been removed since the State would no longer provide it.

GILLIS FALLS TRAILS STILL CLOSED. A reminder that the logging operation is still taking place in Gillis Falls Park and that the trails are still closed until further notice. The Carroll County Equestrian Center remains open, and the show rings are busy.

An interesting web-site: Featuring specialized trail tack:
www.gaitsofgold.com

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Debbie Palmer
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Highland, MD 20777-0129
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Directors/Board Members:
Kathy Dobson (410-747-2015)
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Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page: George and Lisa Graff

County Coordinators:
Carroll – Anne Bennof
Howard – Gale Monahan
Frederick – Pat Merson
Montgomery – Tim McGrath
Prince George's – Mary Angevine

Horse Tests Positive for Rabies

Public Health Risk Low

Officials Stress Importance of Vaccination for Animals

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 3, 2003) — An Anne Arundel County, Maryland horse has tested positive for rabies. The horse, named Coup de Harmony, competed at the East Coast Barrel Bash in Harrington, DE on June 19-21. Public health and veterinary officials feel that because of the specific situation, the risk to human health is minimal. If a horse owner or any other individual has had recent contact with Coup de Harmony they should contact their local health department.

In addition, anyone with a horse that may have come in contact with the infected horse at the event is asked to contact their veterinarian to make sure that the animal's rabies vaccination is up-to-date and to receive a booster if necessary.

"We are conducting a full investigation into the case and have made contact with most of the competitors at the event in Delaware and individuals who may have come in contact with the horse recently. We are reaching out at this time to make sure we did not miss anyone who might have had physical exposure to the rabid horse," said Maryland State Veterinarian, Dr. Phyllis Cassano. "The current situation emphasizes the importance of the rabies vaccine for pets and horses, especially if they are competing or otherwise interacting with other animals and the general public."

Clinical signs of rabies are rarely definitive. The most reliable signs, regardless of species, are behavioral changes and unexplained paralysis. Horses and mules frequently show evidence of distress and extreme agitation. These signs, especially when accompanied by rolling, may be interpreted as evidence of colic. As with other species, horses may bite or strike viciously and, because of size and strength, become unmanageable in a few hours. Such animals frequently suffer self-inflicted wounds (Source: The Merck Veterinary Manual, www.merckvetmanual.com). While these are some clinical signs of rabies, they are no replacement for diagnosis by a licensed veterinarian.

Rabies is transmitted through a bite of a rabid animal. There is a small possibility of indirect transmission through the saliva of a known rabid animal to the eye, nose, mouth or open cut of a person or mammal. The risk of indirect transmission is low. Rabies is a fatal disease but easily preventable with current vaccination. Preventative treatment for rabies is effective in humans but must be started as soon as possible after exposure.

Rabies is present in all Maryland counties. Horses and all pets, including dogs, cats and ferrets, should be kept up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Wildlife, including raccoons, skunks, and bats as well as stray dogs and cats, should not be approached, handled or fed.

"We remind everyone to make sure their animals' rabies vaccinations are current," said Dr. Cassano. Information about rabies is available from your personal physician or veterinarian or online at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies and www.merckvetmanual.com (search for equine rabies).

Fight West Nile...pass this along to all your friends in skeeter land!!!

OK, mosquitoes...prepare to be repelled!!!!!Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets...Best thing ever used in Louisiana..just wipe on & go...Great for Babies.

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October .. He said it works. He was right. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Every one he has talked into trying it works on them. Vitamin B-1(Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg).

If you eat bananas, the mosquitoes like you, - something about the banana oils and the way your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitoes will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

Plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellant you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

One of the best natural insect repellants that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla. This is the pure Vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects.

When all else fails--get a frog

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "TROT" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

An **excellent article ran in July's issue of Equus**...about **basic rules of etiquette when riding out on the trail.** It was a reminder that riders have a responsibility to other riders as well as multi-use users. From trailer parking, clean-up, yielding on the trail and patience to doing your homework before arriving, having control of your horse, alerting others to potential problems, and offering assistance. Call for a copy or for subscription inquiries 1/800-829-5910 or email: Equus@Palmcoastd.com.

MORE GREAT PLACES TO RIDE!

American Bed & Breakfast
Sykesville, MD 800/437-5770

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
Sharpsburg, MD 301/739-4200

Pocomoke River State Forest
Snow Hill, MD 410/632-2566

Potomac-Garrett State Forest
Oakland, MD 301/334-2038

Savage River State Forest
Grantsville, MD 301/895-5759

Tuckahoe State Park
Queen Anne 410/820-1668

Curly M. Stables State Forest 301/724-1868

River Bottom Trail Riders
Damascus, MD 301/253-0999

Gettysburg Horse Park 717/334-1288
email: Artillery Ridge@earthlink.net

TRAIL RIDE!

9/12 - 9/14 Fair Hill, MD
Benefit Fair Hill Mounted Volunteer Patrol
call 410/287-9343 for more info
or email jkricker@dol.net

Are you looking for new trails to ride but not into pitching a tent and cooking your meals over a campfire?
How about a fabulous room decorated to the nines with exquisite antiques in a renovated and restored 18th century home with horse boarding? Welcome to White Hall Bed & Breakfast in Elkton, Md on the historic Arbuckle Estate. Their estate borders Fair Hill, a 5,613 acre Natural Resources Management Area, located in the northeast corner of Cecil County, MD. For information about Fair Hill and a map, call 410/398-1246 or http://www.dnr.state.md.us.
To contact White Hall, call 410/392-8751 or www.bbonline.comb/md/whitehall

Cook Forest Scenic Trail Ride

Located near Allegheny National Forest in beautiful North-Western Pennsylvania
Thousands of acres of majestic forest
Hundreds of crystal clear trout streams
Daily sightings of natures wildlife including deer, turkey, black bear, elk, etc.
300 miles woodland trails

Facilities: nice shaded woodland camping; water and electric hookups; tie stalls; modern restrooms/showers /dressing rooms/rustic cabins; camper trailers for rent; permanent dining and recreation hall; horses for rent; jacuzzi, swimming pool; horseshoes, volleyball, basketball; hiking; canoeing, tubing; live bands; tack auction; nearby antique mall, craft shops, golfing, driving range, miniature golfing, waterslides.

5 day pack trips, organized trail rides, individual horse camping, good trail horses for rent; plentiful "all you can eat" homecooked food; Sunday church services, non-demoninational!; only thing missing is you & your horse. Cook Forest Scenic Trail Ride, Ray & Terri Smith, RD#2Box113 Summerville, PA 15864 814/856-2081 camp: 814/226-5985 May-October

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High Country Horse Camp

Trail Riding in the Highlands of Virginia

Full hook ups, 10x10 stalls, buffet meals, new showers, youth camps, horse rentals, blue grass music specials, scenic trails, wild pony herds, direct access to 100 miles of trails, family atmosphere, corporate training, bed&breakfast specials, cool mountain nights, cabins available, 276-388-3992,
6866 Whitetop Rd, Troutdale, VA 24378

email: contact us @ highcountryhorsecamp.com
website: http://www.highcountryhorsecamp.com
reservations recommends

A study of trailer accidents is being conducted as student research project at Anderson College in South Carolina. They are working with Drs. Rebecca & Tomas Gimenez, Clemson University, who teach the Large Animal Rescue course all over the US, and who are featured on the USRider video that was recently released. They are trying to collect information on the nature of trailer accidents and the types of injuries that are sustained.

All information will be kept confidential. For more information contact: REBGIMENEZ@AOL.COM.

Horse Friends - ACTION ALERT!

Health Insurance

The American Horse Council is requesting that we contact our representatives regarding our health insurance coverage. As the MHC Executive Committee is providing the following summary of the issue:

The 1996 HIPAA Law ensures that health insurance companies cannot deny coverage to those individuals who participate in high risk sports (such as riding or skiing).

Problem: several large federal organizations have adopted regulations that would allow insurance companies to exclude coverage to their employees for injuries resulting from participation in legal high risk activities.

Bottom Line: Although equestrians (and other sports enthusiasts) can not be denied health care coverage by law, their sports-related injuries may be excluded from coverage by virtue of regulations.

Question: "How does this affect me? I don't work for one of those federal agencies."

Answer: If allowed to stand, this establishes a dangerous legal precedent that could be duplicated by other federal agencies or the private sector.

Solution: Two bills have been introduced in Congress that would reinstate the original intent of the HIPAA law, which is to ensure coverage of injuries sustained during participation in legal sporting activities. The principal sponsors of these bills are seeking as many co-sponsors as possible.

What you can do:
Alert your organizations and all the people at the stables at which you ride. Send letters to Maryland Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes , as well as your Congressman. Sample letters can be obtained from the AHC, or download them from their website: www.mdhorsecouncil.org. To find out who your Congressional representative is, please visit www.congress.gov. Call your Senator or Congressman!

(Please send MHC copies of any letters you send, or responses you receive).

Please do this today!

Sen. Barbara Mikulski: 202-224-4645 www.mikulski.senate.gov/mailform

Sen. Paul Sarbanes: 202-224-4524 www.sarbanes.senate.gov/mailform

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Sunday Hunting

This is Peggy Bree's summary of the Sunday Hunting meeting as submitted by Kathy Dobson, TROT Board of Directors

Those of you who couldn't attend the Sunday Hunting meeting missed an exciting and productive meeting. Dr. Roger Scullin led a lively discussion. It was obvious that he had spent a lot of time and energy researching the issues from both a technical and political perspective. In a nutshell, here's what he proposes:

1) That equestrians take a "proactive" approach by proposing hunting legislation this year.

2) That we split the legislation into 2 separate bills. One addressing "Deer Population Management," and the other addressing "Fair and Equitable Access" to recreation.

3) By taking this action, we will be able us to identify the groups that support and oppose both issues. Hopefully the suburbanites, farmers, and the insurance industry who see "Sunday Hunting" as a way to reduce the damage caused by deer will be attracted to a bill that proposes a more effective method of controlling the deer population. The methods are still to be determined, but several options were discussed.

4) We need to reach out to other groups to gain support for "Fair Use." Many are unaware of the "incidents" when humans and farm animals have been accidentally shot. Hunters say they don't understand why equestrians, bikers, hikers, kayakers, and bird watchers don't feel safe in the woods. Community groups, PTA's, and parents need to be educated about the safety issues of kids playing in parks and back yards during hunting season. Those who hunt for sport can hunt year-round (turkey, dove, squirrel, etc). Why not allow hunting on "even days," and allow others safe use of wooded areas on "odd days?"

Roger wrapped up the evening with a challenge to each of us: Contact at least one other group that has a common interest in "Controlling the Deer Population," or "Fair Use of the Outdoors."

Jefferson National Forest, Virginia

From Deborah Sensabaugh

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Golden Horseshoe (VA) affiliate of the Back Country Horsemen of America, thank you for this opportunity to comment on and address issues and concerns regarding the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for various National Forests, including the Jefferson National Forest here in Virginia.

I currently serve as president of the new VA BCHA affiliate, as well as serving on the trail advisory board for the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation, am a long-time horse trails volunteer, a local contact for the Virginia Horse Council trails committee, teach a for-credit beginning horsemanship and trail riding class for Washington and Lee University, have been riding trails for 40 years, and currently working on a book entitled "Ride On, Virginia," which will present public opportunities for horse trail use in the Commonwealth.

Our concerns regarding Standard FW-104 of the proposed revised plan are as follows:

1. Since the Clean Water Act, water quality improvement and preservation have taken the forefront; however, our concern is that the proposal in FW-104 to limit equine use may not be based on available factual data. A University of Colorado faculty study (by Forde, Swinker, Traub-Dargatz and Cheney) concluded, "The low prevalence of Cryptosporidia and Giardia in the trail horse population surveyed indicates that the adult recreational trail horse population is not likely to be a significant source of (C. and G.) environmental contamination in watershed areas." Another paper of findings by professional scientific researcher Adda Quinn concludes, "Horse manure is a solid waste excluded from federal regulation because it neither contains significant amounts of listed hazardous components nor exhibits hazardous properties." In another paper, Quinn says, "Unless there is direct deposition in water, risk of horse urine excreted on trails providing nutrient enrichment to weeds on trails or contaminating streams will be extremely small." Quinn goes on to say that horses stop to urinate, a process that takes time, and before which the animal can be urged on to a non-streamside location by the rider. No scientific data or study implicates horses in trailside or water pollution in urine or fecal contamination. Humans, however, are implicated. In my 40 years of trail riding, I have never known an equine to defecate in a stream (people, yes, horses, no); three times I have observed equines urinating in a stream and twice those equines were ridden by beginners who did not have the skills to push the animal through the stream area before it relaxed and urinated.

2. Our Back Country Horsemen are especially alarmed at what will mean severe limitation and restriction on historic trails that have been used for generations for access to old mountain homesteads, old mail trails, old stagecoach roads and even logging "dinky track" beds. These are used by mounted Appalachian history and culture enthusiasts who would be robbed of an actual participatory experience by being denied access to these old trails. Never have I seen inappropriate or overuse of these areas. These historic users gaze into the past, and meander on. Some of these trails and areas with which I am familiar include Mt Zion/Irish Creek, Dagger Spring, the Jordan iron mining empire that spans several counties, Blue Grass Trail, Nature Camp area, Whetstone Ridge area, Black Horse Gap, Jennings Creek/Gap. The list goes on and on. The pack stock and mounted pioneer efforts opened this area to settlement-- Mad Ann Bailey and her pack string that supplied the frontier settlements, Philip Fithian's historic 1775 trip to the frontier, the efforts of the Lewis family in Army supply during the American Revolution, Washington's frontier forts assignments during the French and Indian Wars-- these folks did not all walk-- I can document that they rode, and rode well indeed. As we have done in their footsteps. Add to that the more recent drover's camps, the iron ore wagons, the mules pulling barges on the James River and Kanawha canal projects. Limiting equine use in these places will kill a part of history that deserves to be protected, used and enjoyed. While on a research project several years ago in Botetourt County, we used horses to access remote areas to gather information about William Wilson's iron industry operation-- furnaces, mines, structures. Under your proposed revisions, mounted access for such journalistic and research projects would be illegal, or would require foot travel from many of us who are unable to do that.

3. Although the reversal of dispersed recreation in favor of concentrated, well constructed and publicized recreational opportunities may, at first glance, be a good solution, in the case of all equine use, this solution would not be the entire answer. Most equine users come from farms and other rural areas. The last thing these users want is to be lumped shoulder to shoulder into overused areas. Several years ago, an AT board member from the Harpers Ferry office explained to me that his "overall spiritual experience on a mountain top was destroyed if he saw me and my horse on that mountain." That works both ways. Many back country stock users value an isolated experience of both personal and environmental discovery. Concentrated trails may be great for the general riding public, but forcing every equine user into that mold would not be any more suitable than telling these hikers where they can and cannot sit and meditate.

4. Many of the trails that would no longer be accessible as designated horse trails (under the proposed revision) are near to people who live on the NF borders. Being able to ride from their farm or neighborhood represents a facility of access that will become more important as the population ages, or as gasoline prices sky rocket. Realtors in our county (Rockbridge) have become rich selling farmettes to equestrians who want access to NF trails. These folks do not constitute overuse-- they are scattered here and there, and because trails are in their neighborhood, they are most ready to volunteer when trail workers are needed.

5. Ten years ago when I helped construct and was the first to through-ride the Glenwood Trail, we were told this trail was intended to help divert the overuse of the Mt. Rogers area. Of course, overused, poorly constructed horse trails are unsightly, dangerously slippery in wet seasons. Over the last 10 years of riding the Glenwood, I've observed dispersed use. And regarding equine use, it does work. It gives more trails, at less construction and maintenance cost. One of my concerns as I score grant applications for DCR every year is not how many new, high-tech trails can be constructed at great taxpayer cost, but what is being done to rehab and maintain what is already there. Trails are already in the NF-- how about working on maintenance rather than the new construction this so on.

6. And let's not leave out the handicapped accessibility. Among the 16 family memberships representing some 40-50 persons in our BCHA affiliate alone, we have several who simply could not access the trails on foot-- age, heart and blood pressure concerns, focal distonia, joint injuries, arthritis. They all enjoy their NF locally, along with the families whose younger children could not keep up on foot.

7. And let's not forget the financial impact. Concentrated equine use, and the mega dollars from trail supplies, groceries, gasoline, hotel and motel, tack shops, etc., that would congregate in a few areas. This would leave out the Mom and Pop country stores whose concentrated use this philosophy will require.

8. We are also concerned about safety issues raised by Standard FW-104. 300 feet? I've had to travel a mile or more out of my way to negotiate a trail blockage without scarring the environment. Under the revision, I'd be breaking the law to do this. Well, just turn around and go back, you may say. But on a linear trail, my rig might be waiting for me at the other end. There would be nothing to go back to.

9. While 300 feet seems a wide space along a trail, if one has pack stock, the grass is not always conveniently growing within a 300-foot radius. When dealing with officials, I'm always asked, "But don't you carry your horse feed with you?" A horse eats from 30 (hay) to 50 (grass) pounds of forage per day. To carry that for my riding horse, I'd have to add a pack mule, who would then need another pack mule to carry his feed, and numerous other trail riders to stock up.

Some of our suggestions for better use of FS lands in regard to equine users:

1. Allow for equine use as it has been for years -- in both concentrated, planned ride and camp areas -- and dispersed areas. This will satisfy the packers, the back country lovers, the historic minded, the weekend riders, and the novice trail riders who want amenities.

2. Don't attempt to fix what isn't broken or even needs fixing. Currently, horses can use all foot travel trails, unless these trails are designated "no horses." We're fine with that. Close the fragile, overused, steep, unsuitable trails to horses on a case by case basis with public review. We can live with that. Don't create a new category of user for us. Horses are compatible with foot travel users.

3. Seek to create relationships with equine users and use these relationships to assess needs of the users, rather than make assumptions about use with no factual support or research.

4. Build a volunteer base among equine users and groups. I watched this base erode locally several years ago when new management policies were put into effect, with no input from volunteers at all. And I see them continue to deteriorate with heavy-handed law enforcement techniques, lack of dialogue, and restrictions that make no sense to users. Will the FS become a Nazi state, with rangers yanking people off horses and arresting them? Knowing the enforcement personnel up here, I can easily envision that happening.

5. Better educational efforts have gone a long way from the days when the local wagon train unloaded their homemade porta-potty into local mountain streams, to now, when riders are ever more conscious of their impact on the environment. The NF needs to use groups like BCHA and others, to help educate equine users about how to take better care of the National Forests.

6. And we can always use better trail marking, better maps and adequate parking areas.

In short, let's maintain what is already there, and make wise use of it so the NF will not be the peoples' most underused resource.

Thank you,
Deborah J. Sensabaugh

Horse Trails in the Jefferson National Forest - the other side of the coin!

From Nancy J Ross

There has obviously been a considerable amount of misinformation in the horse community regarding the Jefferson Forest Plan, and I wanted to let you know what is really being proposed.

The Proposed Jefferson Forest Plan does not contain a forest-wide standard to limit horse trails to designated roads and trails. We have however, included the following standard in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area and the Pine Mountain area on the Clinch Ranger District:

"Allow bicycles, horses, and pack stock only on open and closed roads (unless otherwise posted) and designated trails. Horses and pack stock are allowed immediately adjacent to these trails and roads for the purpose of camping, resting, picnicking, watering, etc. (within a corridor of 300 feet on either side of these designated routes)."

The intent of this standard is not to reduce the numbers of horse trails or equestrian access. To the contrary, we have a Forest Objective (19.02 on page 2-36) to increase hiking, biking, and equestrian trail systems, especially in non-motorized settings with high quality landscapes.

What this new standard is primarily designed to address is folks going cross country, particularly in the open meadows of the Mount Rogers High Country. We have a lot of sensitive soils and plants in the High Country and use in this area continues to grow and grow. The remainder of the Mount Rogers NRA gets a tremendous amount of horse use because, as you pointed out, this area of the Forest has the most horse trails as well as campgrounds and trailheads designed with equestrian use in mind. Likewise, the Pine Mountain area on the Clinch Ranger District receives heavy use and has many sensitive areas.

The rule is NOT meant to close down existing horse trails. The horse trails that are currently open to horses, like the Iron Mountain Trail and Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, will continue to be open and indeed opportunities to increase the numbers of horse trails will be sought.

I hope this helps. Please call me if you have any other questions. I'd also appreciate it if you could disseminate this information to other horse users in Virginia as I have received quite a lot of letters on this subject.

Nancy J. Ross
Planning Team Leader
George Washington & Jefferson NFs
540-265-5172
njross@fs.fed.us

Manassas National Battlefield Park Trail Conditions

Summary: Recommend equestrians DO NOT use the trails until they dry out!!!

I have recommended to the Park Superintendent that the trails be closed to all equestrian use. However, he and I both believe that it will take a number of days to implement and we expect better weather to make the trails useable within the foreseeable future. Therefore, we will "count on" the good judgment of all equestrians to dictate they NOT ride the trails until the trails dry out. A contingency plan to address the issue in the future will be looked at.

It is my opinion, that any equestrian who rides upon our Park trails before they have had time to dry out, is being selfish and irresponsible. The Park trail maintenance funding has been seriously cut back so that many repairs and maintenance will NOT get done.................any use of the trails now will most certainly create problems for the area equestrians future use of the Park's trail system

Frank Boberek
President, BES

President's Highway Proposal Assists Equestrians

President Bush's proposal for new surface transportation programs, known as SAFETEA, contains a section which protects equine access to federal paths. Now is the time for us to comment on this proposed language change so that is does not get amended before being passed. We have been trying to get this policy changed to include equestrian use for quite some time so it is important that we show our support at this critical time. SAFETEA (formerly known as TEA21) is the grant program that funds many trail projects and that comes from the Federal Highway program.

The American Horse Council may provide more detail, as well as sample letters. Amend as you like to reflect the importance of trails to you and send it in. It will only take a few minutes and may help make the difference in money for more trails and trail improvements being available for our use.

If you need the fax or email address for your representative, this is a handy website: http://www.vote-smart.org/official_congress.php. Just put in your zip+4 and it will give you the names and full contact info.

Sally Aungier

Topics below on: Weather related trail closures, James Long Park Meetings, Greater South Market, New Forest Service Plan, Trailer Accident Study and kittens

Riders,

State Parks management has asked me to pass along this information:

The rainy weather has caused many of the trails to become super saturated and either too dangerous or fragile for equestrian and bike use. James River State Park will be closing trails as needed when it is too wet. Please call ahead if you are planning to ride/camp there to check on the trail status. If trails are closed, they will leave a message on the pre-recorded phone message. Others parks may have to start doing the same thing so it is a good idea to check with them as well.

Please consider the damage that is done when you ride on wet trails in all of the facilities, and be conservative in your choices of where to ride until we have drier conditions.

Sally Aungier, Va Horse Council

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NEWS

Electronic Edition

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TROT Information
301-588-TROT

October 2003

Number 144

Heaven Must Have Needed a Web Site...
...So The Lord Took TROT's Web Master, George Graff

George Graff passed away suddenly on the morning of August 24 as the result of a heart attack. George was only 44.

Members of the TROT Board of Directors first met George when he came to a Board meeting and volunteered to set up and maintain a web page for TROT. The beautiful result is now being enjoyed by TROT members and visitors alike.

Many in TROT did not know George personally or have the pleasure of riding with him. But all of us feel we have had that unique electronic connection with him through emails and the information we enjoy on the web site. And those of us who are "technologically challenged" have our own fond memories of his patience in explaining the process and what needed to be done.

George's wife, Lisa, has graciously offered to continue the web site for us, and we are touched that she would think of us during this difficult period. We're thinking of you, too, Lisa.

In George's memory, TROT has made a contribution to the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch in Buckeystown. (www.msyr.org)

A Note from Lisa Graff:

I want to thank those who sent cards and flowers and donations to The Ranch. Thank you to those who sent me email sharing kind words and offers of assistance with my farm. Fortunately, I have wonderful friends and neighbors and a very supportive family. No doubt, this has been a horrible time for me. I feel blessed that I have so many friends that care. Thank You! *Lisa*

Mother Nature Has Jinxed Us Again
TROT'S JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE!

We were disappointed in June when wet trails and high river water forced us to postpone the annual TROT Judged Pleasure Ride.

But we re-grouped and were all set to try again on September 27. But then along came Isabel on September 18-19.

Immediately thereafter, the Park authorities closed Patapsco State Park so that they could assess the damage and begin clean-up. At that point -- what with Isabel and the heavy storm that followed a few days later -- the mud and water were even worse than before. And we could not get in to try to get the trails clear if, indeed, that were possible, just one week before the ride. The danger of high water in the river continued to be a serious safety concern. This is a disappointment for all of us because of all the hard work that goes into the planning – plus the fact that the Judged Pleasure Ride is our major fund-raiser for the year. But we will try again next Spring, and we hope all participants and volunteers will be ready and willing to make the 2004 ride the best ever.

In the meantime, we thank all the judges and other volunteers who offered their help this frustrating year. And our special thanks to our ride manager, Marilynn Miller, who tried her best to make the 2003 JPR happen.

TROT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2003 (condensed!)

Present: Gale Monahan, Michelle Beachley, Pat Merson, Marilyn Miller, Suzanne Anderson, Deneen Martin, Kathy Dobson, Anne Bennof, Pat Denu, Chris Conner, Amy Kimble, Marjan Davis, Susan Hunt

The following County's had reports: Carroll County – the funding for the port-a-pots at Morgan Run had run out and it was unanimously voted that TROT would pay for the cleaning until the end of the year. Frederick County – The TROT ride held was a success and the trails were good. The trails in the Catoctin Mountains are still blocked and there is no information on when they will be cleared. Montgomery County – The opening of Woodstock Park, originally scheduled for September, has been changed to the Spring of 2004. Prince Georges County – Our coordinator, Mary Angevine, remains actively involved in the fight for Fairland Park.

Search and Rescue reported they had gained about twenty new team members. There will be three assessment trials this year. A new patch for team members who are certified will be available.

There was discussion that the terms of all of the officers has exceeded the limits and new officers need to be recruited.

A Sunday Hunting Bill meeting was held at a hunt club in Mt. Airy, hosted by Dr. Scullin. 600 notices were sent out and 30 people attended. Dr. Scullin suggested there be two bills: one for controlling the deer population and the other to get non-hunting on Sunday. They are trying to compile a list of coalition of all people who use the trails on Sunday. He also suggested that maybe the hunters would give up another day in place of Sunday.

Equestrian Access to Savage Forest in Western Maryland

Savage Forest is off Rt 68 in the area of Deep Creek Lake and encompasses New Germany State Park, Big Run State Park, Savage Mountain, Meadow Mountain, Savage River Reservoir and several lakes. The forest has ski-mobile, cross country skiing, hiking and ATV trails, in addition to many old timbering roads. The elevation is high, there are minimal bugs and the vegetation is lush.

Peggy Bree visited this area, made contact with the head ranger, and had the following comments: I did not think either the Collier or Margroff Place camps would work for horses. Collier seemed like a great place, but horse trailers would not be able to go in and out on the access road. I was also uncertain if there are any trails that connect to the camping area. Getting into Margroff was easier. I did drive all the way back to M4 and M5. M5 did have a small field area that was too over grown with weeds to use for camping. While the road was better than the Collier access road, there was a gully along the side of the road that would be a problem if a trailer went too close to the edge of the road. There was also no place for 2 vehicles to pass along the driveway, and if you've ever tried to back up a large trailer for any distance, you already know that someone is going to end up in the gully.

The best area at Margroff would probably be the open areas where you first enter Margroff. There are several small fields that surround the incoming road and pipe valves. The next obstacle in the Margroff area is access trails. There were a few short trails that I saw on one map, but no indication that any of the trails shown connect to longer trails. Equestrians will ride 10 to 20 miles in a day. For additional information, contact Peggy Bree at bree@riva.net Or (410)224-8804.

Notes from Prince George's County

submitted by Mary Angevine, August 12, 2003

Fairland Regional Park trails are still intact. The developer is still working on a way to trade his wasteland for parkland to build his houses. We neighbors who love this park are still working to save it. Until further notice, please continue enjoying the trails there.

Here is location information for those who are new to this facility. It is located approximately 2 miles south of Route 98 (east of Burtonsville and Route 29). The entrance is the same as that of Gunpowder Golf Course, our trail head is on the grass, between two horse crossing signs. Ride south across the driveway into the Golf Course, continue along the chainlink fence to the maintenance yard. Turn right between the fences, and left at the end of the maintenance yard. Continue south to a "t" intersection on the turf (see the yellow horsehead sign on the tree straight ahead?), and turn right into the woods. Cross the paved bicycle trail and continue across the grass into the woods again. ENJOY!

There are approximately two miles of trail on the Prince George's side and about three on the Montgomery County side. The trails are generally wide, all are passable, and are great for exploring. If you go south on the Prince George's side along the gas line, you will arrive at the bottom of a grassy slope. Go ahead up onto the top, where you will encounter pavement and narrow turf strips on the side. Follow this pavement until it curves to the left, .and you will see the entrance back into the woods. There are some more yellow horsehead markers high up in the trees along the suggested route, but you can ride any of the trails you see there.

Here is some interesting news about the gas line: A spokesperson for Columbia Gas advised there is a $500 reward for reports of any damage to the pipeline or any unauthorized digging you may see there! The most wonderful surprise this year is just how perfect the schooling ring is at Acredale Park in College Park. We have used this ring randomly over the last 20 years, and have done maintenance work on it through the auspices of Park and Planning. What we didn't realize until this year (because we now have a very young mare) is the breadth of the experience offered here for novice horses. Within view of the ring is University Boulevard (a soccer field and treed buffer separate the ring from the road), a picnic pavilion where groups with active children often gather, a trail and bicycle path that winds its way along the eastern end of the property, and the new dog park several hundred feet to the south. If you walk the horse outside the ring, you can utilize the trail, or ride around the open fields (and encounter a large drain pipe with a gaping opening...scary!). In other words, your horse will be exposed to just about everything you can think of! This ring can be found on Metzerott Road between U.S. Route 1 and University Boulevard (on the northeastern corner of the Maryland University Campus in College Park). Don't hesitate to call me if you want more information on these facilities or any others in Prince George's County (301/937-0014).

Thanks for all the great information, Mary!

...and from Montgomery County

...thanks to Naomi Manders!

Montgomery COUNTY Parks trails information is located on our web: www.mc-mncppc.org (see "What's happening" or hiking/biking for maps---they are not great maps but have GPS info)

Thanks to all the good TROT people who came out Saturday, August 16, to help prune at Rachel Carson Conservation Park. We got a fair amount done, passed out maps, established parking and recruited park monitors. I'm now fully ensconced in my new position as Volunteer Coordinator for Natural Surface Trails and aim to construct as many new trails and upgrade or maintain existing trails as possible. Although there is a good budget for bridges and other materials, Parks will be depending on YOU the trail user to help out. County staff has been mowing floodplains and cutting large deadfall trees -- but pruning and light maintenance will be done by volunteers. Actually, it's fun! Especially when you get to come back and use a nice, well-groomed trail.

Don't forget : Your labor = money ! We are individually banking all TROT's (and other clubs') work hours which will be used to match State Grant money for bigger costs like bridges and underpasses. So join the force! RSVP naomi.manders@mncppc-mc.org or 301-650-4395

(The players in the following story are all TROT members)

A RESCUE SUCCESS!

Kudos to Michele McGuiness!! She performed both a person rescue and a lost (and found) horse search this past weekend.

Michele rides one of John Proudman's horses, the walker named Tom. On Sunday, John and Michele went riding from John's farm into the Patuxent River State Park, John on his 5 year old bay arab gelding named Fancy. Fancy hasn't had too much trail experience yet. Somehow, along the ride, a rope came loose on Fancy's gear, and as he stepped over a log, it wrapped around his hind leg. Poor little youngster had a bucking attack. Tossed John and went bucking down the trail and was quickly out of sight. Not that Michele was initially worried about the horse. John was out cold. And yes he was wearing his helmet. The time was about 12:15 pm. John regained consciousness, but Michele soon realized he wasn't making sense. Cell phone reception was basically nil. She had the 911 operator, sort of, but couldn't provide specific enough directions to their location in the park for rescuers to respond. And finally she lost all cell phone signal.

John was able to get up and hobble around a bit, so Michele boosted him up on Tom (who was tacked in a western saddle), and proceeded to hand walk them out, all the way back to John's house. There she had clear cell phone reception. Emergency personnel responded, and they in fact flew John out to Suburban Hospital. Michele also called Zoe and asked her to respond to the hospital. He stayed the night with a concussion, but thankfully no fractures.

Meanwhile, where was Fancy? Michele called Suzanne and Frank for help. Suzanne arrived at John's house with Bos, and Frank followed in the van. Together the three formulated a plan: Michele and Suzanne would head back out on the trails, and Frank would circle the area: Hipsley Mill, Jennings Chapel, Howards Chapel, and Rt. 650. He stopped off at Waredaca Farm and other houses along the way to let people know about the missing horse. Michele and Suzanne were out four hours with nothing found. Michele decided to stay the night at John's, taking care of a tired Tom and also treating Dancer, John's endurance horse who's been sick and injured the past month or two. That evening was phone calling time, getting the word out. Michele called Patti Mathes, a regular rider of the Howard County side of the park, and Patti began calling other friends who know those trails. Suzanne called Animal Control of both Montgomery County and Howard County to make a report, then called Rich and Laura Roemer, Larry Raskin, Jeff and Kim Cooperman, Deenen Martin, and Pat Oliva, all regular users of the trails in the part of the park. Pat Oliva, formerly a member of the search team herself, thought to call the State DNR and report the missing horse as well.

Monday morning, riders hit the trail: Kim and Jeff rode out from the Annapolis Rock Road parking field, as did Larry and his son later in the morning. Pat Oliva was on the trails first, parking at the river bridge on Hipsley Mill. She needed to return home to meet the farrier at about 9:00, but she was back out on the trail as soon as the shoes were on. Rich and Laura trailered to the end of Elton Farm Road off of Howard Chapel Road, and cruised the trails at that end of the search area. Suzanne and Michele started from John's house again, and visited all the neighbors, handing out fliers describing the horse and providing cell phone numbers.

Then they hit the trails again, down the river then up into Montgomery Co. and all the way to Waredaca, to post a few more fliers. Dove season opened that day, and every hunter they met received a flier. The afternoon wore on, it got hot and muggy. Tom was showing the stress of the heat, as were Suzanne and Michele too. Bos had a girth sore open, galling him. They left Waredaca at about 2:00 pm, and headed as directly as possible back to John's. They were back in the general vicinity of the place last seen (PLS), approaching an awful snag of downed trees blocking the trail, around which they had bushwhacked the day before.

Michele called Fancy's name again, and there he was! He whickered back! He was actually on the trail at the tree blockage, wearing only the browband and throatlatch of his bridle. .Michele was crooning to Fancy, and scrambling off of Tom, untying the halter brought just for this occasion. Suzanne was pulling out her leadline, and trading that for Tom's reins. Michele approached quietly with soothing words, and Fancy took the last couple steps to her. We had him. Michele opted to lead him home, and Suzanne ponied Tom. Fancy was very eager to be on the way, and as we neared the trail entrance, he finally recognized his surroundings and started treading on Michele's heels in his rush. John and Zoe were just coming out the John's driveway as the rescued and the rescuers approached, and there was a huge grin on John's face to see his pretty little bay arab .safe and sound. Tom was exhausted, and his hind legs swelled from the long day's work, so Michele put him to bed in standing wraps. Fancy was "hungry as a horse." Bos was very relieved to get the saddle off and to have salve applied to his open sore. Everyone went home tired and achey, but very, very happy.

Many, many thanks to all the deputy search team riders who responded to the call for help. And my congratulations to Michele for the good work she did over the entire incident, keeping her cool, and her good humor through really frustrating and frightening events. Good Job Girl! Suzanne Anderson TROT Mounted Search Team trailsendfarm@erols.com Maryland

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Volunteer Trail Maintenance Day

ROSARYVILLE PARK

DATE: Saturday, October 18

TIME: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

CONTACT: Donna Almond, telephone 301-627-6797 bigtrot@aol.com

Rosaryville Park is the best kept secret in Maryland State Parks. It has not always been accessible so PLEASE come out and show your support and interest in this park. Trail riders need to be represented. Bikers are marking trails, bird dog enthusiasts have cleared land (with more scheduled for next year), the hunt club maintains the trail jumps, and Maryland Horse Trials maintains the pavilion area and all of their course jumps. What do the trail riders contribute?

We need to be counted, so please come out for some (light) trail cleaning. Bring your own favorite pruning equipment, water, bag lunch, gloves, insect repellant, sunscreen, etc. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes.

DIRECTIONS

From the north: From the Junction of MD Rte 301 and Rte 4 Go south on 301 about 5 miles; When you see a Safeway/Exxon shopping center, be in your right lane. Go through the light at (So Osborne Road) Safeway/Exxon and 7-11 are on your right Start going up the hill 1/10 mile and go into the right turn lane which takes you into Rosaryville Park.

Rosaryville Park entrance is not well marked so go slow and watch.

From the south: From Waldorf take 301 North about 12 - 13 miles. Watch for a light at Heathermore Blvd; Get into the left lane ASAP; the park entrance is on the left BEFORE you start going down the hill. If you go down the hill there will be a Safeway parking lot on your left to turn around. ***Rosaryville Park entrance is not well marked so go slow and watch.***

Thanks to Sarah Donaldson and Joyce Bell for the following Idlywild Information!

Idylwild Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Equestrian Focus Group Meeting ,9/9/03

Attending:
John Moulis - Eastern Regional Wildlife Manager (oversees Kent to Worcester Cnty)
Greg Schenck - his primary responsibility is Idylwild WMA, Fishing Bay WMA,
and other Dorchester County WMA's (also supervises Massey; works out of Vienna)
Peter Jayne - Associate Director for Wildlife and Heritage, Regional Operations.
John Wilson - planning chief for the state.
Mark Hoffman - does budgets, coordinates federal grant money.
plus two officers from the Natural Resources Police
plus representatives from T.R.O.T, TEC, Wicomico Hunt (2), MD Trails & Greenways Committee, MD Horse Council, Delmarva Driving Club, Delaware Equine Council, and neighboring landowner (Keith Fearins).

Moulis began by saying that shutting down Idylwild to equestrians was never considered. We were there to dialogue and build relationships that will hopefully help WMA users understand and respect each other. Moulis said a WMA is very different from a park. Parks are people-oriented, more supervised, and much more intensely developed, perhaps having a visitor center, for instance. They are staffed by a different branch of DNR. WMAs have minimal development and are staffed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. Of the 435,000 total acreage in MD under DNR's auspices, 105,000 acres, or about 1/4, are WMAs. There are 41 WMAs in Maryland. Most important, however, is the fact that parks are funded by general tax dollars, whereas WMAs are 95% funded by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program which was authorized by Congress in 1937. This is often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson, or P-R Act. The Act is funded by a dedicated 11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10% tax on handguns, and the sale of hunting licenses. Revenue thus derived has specific eligible uses. It can be used to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wildlife (through wildlife population surveys, reintroduction of wildlife species, research, etc), or it can be used to educate hunters. Potential landmark legislation to obtain funding from other sources has not made it through legislature; instead Congress has made a one-time (annual?) appropriation to the Department of the Interior from whence State and Provincial wildlife agencies can make an application to obtain funding via the Wildlife Grants Program.

Since the primary goal of a wildlife region is to promote, protect, conserve, and maintain areas for activities that are wildlife dependent (hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, etc), recreational activities that are wildlife enhanced (swimming, riding, biking, etc.) may be allowed only if it is shown they will not interfere with the purpose for which the land was originally acquired or developed.

A detailed map of Idylwild WMA was displayed. A purple border within the WMA designated the wildlands, which in 1998 were designated as Type II and have been set aside for additional protection due to their seemingly undisturbed nature. These bottomland areas are generally located to the west of the stony crossing (which is in the approximate center of Idylwild WMA), and running south with Marshyhope Creek to the Town of Federalsburg. There are an estimated 15-25 wildlands statewide.

Confrontations between hunters and other users have increased at Idylwild. By understanding other users and how they pursue their sport, it is hopeful that these confrontations will diminish. For instance, equestrians can practice voluntary restraint and refrain from riding in the WMA on the first day of dove season. Newsletters of equestrian groups can help by publicizing the days when hunters are most avidly pursuing their sport. It was mentioned that recommendations from this focus group may serve as a model for other WMAs elsewhere in the state.

WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK

The following is an update on the development of Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville submitted by KEN NICHOLLS, Montgomery Parks Foundation, Inc., (301) 767-0002, www.montgomeryparksfnd.org Park Development.

If you drive up or down Rte. 28 you can't miss the activity. Accel/Decel lanes have been installed on both sides of the park and asphalt put down. There is a temporary parking lot on the Moritz Greenberg side of the park, and a permanent parking lot is being installed now on the Dr. William Rickman side of the park. The temporary lot will eventually be replaced by a 10-trailer lot that is now being sited by Equestrian Services, Inc. Equestrian Services, Inc. of Annapolis is also laying out trails in the park and handling other horse-related site plan elements. They are working with other consultants who are addressing engineering/survey issues, historic preservation, etc. The work of these consultants should be done very soon.

Friends Group Forming - Meeting scheduled
Volunteers have been meeting throughout the summer to draft bylaws, establish a membership dues structure, and plan benefits and activities for a Friends Group to support Woodstock Equestrian Park. This unique park will need advocates if it is going to serve the local equestrian community well. Beyond the parking lots and basic infrastructure of the park, there is little or no funding for other amenities. The Friends Group will help to identify needs and solutions.

Monday, October 27 Meeting
Mark your calendars! On Monday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. there will be a presentation by Equestrian Services at the Owens Local Park Recreation Bldg., 19900 Beallsville Road, Beallsville (light refreshments served starting at 6:30 p.m.). This will be the public's first opportunity to get a glimpse of what Equestrian Services is recommending for the site. Following the presentation there will be a Charter Meeting of the new Friends Group with an election of officers and adoption of bylaws. Committees will also be formed, including a Program/Activities Committee, a Public Relations Committee, and a Facility Planning Committee.

Turner Farm Equestrian Park-Now Under Construction!

Northern Virginia and the Metro D.C area will soon have a beautiful new **40-acre public equestrian facility** at Turner Farm Park in Great Falls, featuring:

Large multi-purpose arena (200' x 300') with all- weather footing, stadium jumps and dressage markers

Dressage arena - **Cross-country course** with water, ditch and bank complexes
Round pen
Conditioning trails and bridle paths
Equestrian games area

We Need Your Help

There is still much work to be done to meet our hope of having the Farm ready for equestrian use by Spring 2004. The **Turner Farm Equestrian Committee** is a citizen's group of volunteers who help plan and develop the Park's equestrian facilities. The Fairfax County Park Authority will finance much of the development, but we will need $25,000 in additional funds to complete the project.

We are seeking volunteer time and/or equipment to assist in building and maintaining the riding rings, the lunging pen and the cross-country course, planning and laying out the bridle paths, and raising funds. We will also need the services of a cross-country course designer. Other helpful donations would include materials for building cross-country fences and jumps for the stadium jumping.

Donations to the Turner Farm Equestrian Park are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: Brogue Charities 501 (c) (3)-Turner Farm Equestrian Fund, PO Box 176, Great Falls, Va. 22066

For more information, please send an e-mail to turnerfarm@cox.net1 The original Conceptual Development Plan for Turner Farm can be found at www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/cdpturnerframe.htm

Background on The Turner Farm

The Turner Farm Park is located at the intersection of Georgetown Pike (Route 193) and Springvale Road (Route 674) in Great Falls, Virginia. This community park was formed from the recent merger of three parcels - 1) the Defense Mapping Agency site (donated to Fairfax County by the federal government in the Land to Parks program), 2) Lexington Estates Park (deeded to the Fairfax County Park Authority by a developer in the 1970s), and 3) the Mark Turner dairy farm (purchased with locals funds and revenue from the 1998 park bond referendum). Together, these parcels total almost 53 acres.

The Turner Farm was added to the existing parkland after a citizens' initiative, "Save the Farm", held fundraisers from 1996-2000, with the proceeds contributing to the purchase and continued development. Significant contributions from Seneca Excavating, Brogue Charities, the Great Falls Lions, and the Analemma Society established the precedent for The Turner Farm Equestrian and Fence Committee's present fund drive. The Equestrian Committee has raised $10,000 for fencing that was matched by a $10,000 Mastenbrook Fund grant from the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Park will have three main themes:
- Observatory Park (cultural history, education and recreation)
- Equestrian Park (recreation)
- Community Park (active and passive recreation)

Current Happenings

- **Fence:** The equestrian perimeter fence is nearly complete.
- **Park Entrance.** The Park Service has installed a new black vinyl security fence around the observatory area. The Park entrance is now open to the public. There will not be a gate at the Park entrance. However, there will be a gate at the entrance to the equestrian area.
- **Barn:** The barn cleanup and repair is underway. Initially, the barn will be for storage only.
- **Parking Lots:** The Park Authority has re-surfaced the existing parking lot for the Observatory and the playground. The next step is to install a gravel driveway and parking lot in the equestrian area.
- **Riding Arenas:** Our team is currently preparing specifications for the all-weather outdoor riding arenas. Seneca Excavating has offered to donate grading services for the equestrian riding ring.
- **Cross Country Course:** The Cross County Committee is developing plans for a cross county schooling course that will feature water, ditch and bank complexes. The jumps will have a flexible design in order to satisfy both beginner and more advanced riders.
- **Equestrian Games Field:** Over 30 groundhog holes have been filled.
- **Playground:** A tot lot, which is sponsored by the Great Falls Lions Club, was installed in October. Brogue Charities plans to install a picnic pavilion near the tot lot.

This Month's Recipe

Easy, No-Cook Bran Snaps

4 cups bran
4 cups applesauce

Mix ingredients together. Batter should be doughy. Roll out with a rolling pin and cut shapes with cookie cutters. Let dough dry and serve.

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526) A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

October 18, Saturday: **Codorus State Park** - York County, PA. The 3,329-acre Codorus State Park is in the southwest corner of York County, about three miles southeast of Hanover, Pennsylvania, along PA 216. A prime attraction of the park is the 1,275-acre Lake Marburg, which has 26 miles of shoreline. Horseback Riding: A seven-mile bridle trail network winds through the west side of the park. Directions: From I-83, take Exit 8. Go 18 miles west on PA 216 to the park. From PA 116, go through Hanover. Turn right onto PA 216 east and go three miles to the park to right on Sinsheim to left on Main Launching Road. Or from Route 30 from Reisterstown, North to Pennsylvania, right at light at Grandview, through 4 way stop, right at light onto 216, over 3 bridges to left on Sinsheim, left onto main launching road and horse trailer parking on left. 10:30 a.m. ride from parking lot off Sinsheim - watch for the horse trailer parking signs. Will pace ride to slowest rider, but should have enough volunteers to take others on side routes at a faster pace. Contact Jean Swartz at 410/346-7060.

October 18, Saturday: **Rosaryville Workday** Southern Prince Georges County, near Andrews AirForce Base. Contact Donna Almond 301/627-6797 or bigtrot@aol.com.

October 25, Saturday: **The Potomac Day Parade and trail ride.** A trail ride after the parade will be hosted by Susan Novotny. First, you and your mount will stroll through the streets of Potomac through the annual parade representing TROT (wear your TROT shirts!). This is a parade, so there will be an array of challenging noises and objects. After the parade we will venture out on the lovely Potomac area trails. Contact Susan Novotny @ 301-526-6636 or my email is susan@snvhomes.com for more information and to sign up for the parade.

November 8, Saturday: **N.E. Branch Anacostia River, Prince Georges County.** These trails are a tribute to trail preservation and Mary and John Angevine's efforts. They wind through parks and playgrounds, tunnels, bridges, and wide-open levees. Contact John Angevine at 301-937-0014.

November 8, 15, 29: **Work Days on Montgomery County Trails.** Contact Naomi Manders @ Naomi.Manders@mncppc-mc.org to volunteer or additional information.

November 30, Sunday: **Camp Waredaca, Patuxent River State Park, Montgomery County.** These great trails traverse farmland fields into the Patuxent River Park. These trails may overlap and eventually connect with the Upper Patuxent River trails you can explore on a future ride. You may have the interesting experience of riding by some of the cross-country jumps at Waredaca. This is a fun trot/canter ride with a few small log jumps on some of the trails. Contact Gayle Ford at 410-552-5372.

For any feedback, suggestions or comments regarding scheduled rides, contact Michelle Beachley, TROT's Trail Ride Coordinator, at 301/482-2526 or via email (webebeachleys@msn.com).

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails

> **I am seeking a riding buddy after the first frost (to get rid of the bugs). I have an inexperienced 7 year old saddlebred that I am trying to school in dressage. We have some trails adjacent to our barn. The barn is located in Clarksburg, Montgomery County, near Sugarloaf Mountain. I am retired and can ride most any time. Please call between the hours of 6 and 8 pm or email me at alanungar@aol.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROTNews, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is November 5th. Make checks out to TROT. Type or print your ad, 70 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

Please note that the classified ad deadline will now be the 5th of the month prior to publication...in an effort to get the bi-monthly newsletter to you by the 1st of the month!

Meadowbrook Cart and Harness - for horse or large pony. **Cart Amish made** $795. Pleasure harness from Smuckers $195. Call Bill Mitchell 410/531-6652.

Midnight – **Handsome, black, Tennessee Walker gelding**, 15 hds., 7 yrs. old. Easy keeper, good disposition, stands quiet. Strong and willing on trails. Experienced rider - $3,500. Frank 410/795-3591.

Free Field Board for horse in exchange for labor. Board fence, run-in sheds, heated stock tanks. Union Bridge area. Call 301/639-4448 if interested.

Property for Sale – A 3 minute ride to Patapsco trails! **5-1/4 acre farmette in Sykesville** (Howard Co.) offers new 72x36 center aisle barn: 6 stalls w/dutch doors, heated tack w/hot & cold water, 2 frost free pumps. Newly fenced and cross-fenced. Turnout includes stone dust paddock surrounding barn & doubling as all weather riding area, two large grass paddocks (one could include 60' round pen & small dressage arena) and a 2-1/3 acre field. Invisible fence surrounds property. The house is a well maintained 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, split-level with ceiling fans and air conditions. Come enjoy mature landscaping, deck and in-ground pool in a quiet neighborhood. 410/489-7536.

This is YOUR newsletter...**we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:
Gale Monahan, President (301-854-3852)
Tim McGrath, Vice President (1-800-292-3547)
Pat Merson, Secretary (301-898-3251)
Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301-829-0949)

Directors/Board Members:
Kathy Dobson (410-747-2015)
Marilyn Miller (301-898-7274)
Jack Monahan (301-854-3852)
Deneen Martin (301-253-2955)
Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)
Pat Denu (301-253-6932)

Membership: Linda Eminizer (410-661-0176)
Trail Ride Coordinator: Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)
Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (1-800-292-3547)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page: Lisa Graff

County Coordinators:
Carroll – Anne Bennof
Howard – Gale Monahan
Frederick – Pat Merson
Montgomery – Tim McGrath
Prince George's – Mary Angevine

HEALTH ISSUES ... The Information Exchange

West Nile I had a report from my veterinarian (Dr. Will Engel) that there were 20 confirmed cases of recently diagnosed West Nile Virus in our area. 18 have survived...all had been vaccinated. Symptoms of this disease include extreme hypersensitivity (like if you touch your horse's neck one day and it's ok, the next he won't let you do it); stumbling; extreme depression...the early caught cases can be treated...be on the alert!

I would like to thank everyone who sent me emails regarding hurricane preparedness with regard to horse care. It also occurred to me that it might be useful to have an email list of those of our membership who wanted to be kept apprised of issues of this sort that might come up between publications, etc.

If you'd like to be included in our TROT email mailing list on issues, happenings and events that occur in between our publications, please advise me. Group e-mailings could be informative when last minute events are scheduled, health issues are posted for our area or weather concerns affect our areas.

You may be included on this list by emailing DSPSFARM@aol.com – use TROT Email List as the subject in your reference line and you will be added to the list. Thanks!

All trails are in terrible shape---please caution all riders as I was nearly torn off my horse Sunday trying to get by a jagged limb.

from naomi manders

Subject: Looking for a Horse?

I know it is a long way to go, but many of these horses will end up at slaughter houses unless they find new homes. I have 3 OTTBs (Off Track TBs) and they are wonderful horses. It is a win-win situation - you get a beautiful horse (often for very little money) and the horse gets a second chance at life off the track. If you can't get to Northampton, you might want to look at the West Virginia CANTER site (http://www.canterusa.org/westvirginia/). Thanks. If you have ever considered buying or adopting a retiring Thoroughbred racehorse, your best chance may be their second chance!

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Not in the market, and can't foster or adopt? Pass this on to as many horse lovers as you know: the more people we reach, the greater the chance these horses have! Interested? We encourage prospective buyers to come to the fair with a trailer and cash, as dozens of wonderful horses will need to move quickly (and will be available at bargain basement prices - from $350 and up). While some animals may have injuries that require time off and TLC, many are young, sound and gorgeous - they are just not fast enough to continue in a racing career. Because Suffolk Downs, the "home base" for many of these horses is not running from 10/27 - 1/5/04, there are many horses that won't be returning to run there.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? If you have ever considered owning a Thoroughbred and would like more information, or if you have a stall in your barn and would consider fostering a horse awaiting permanent placement, please contact CANTER NE at canterne@canterusa.org or 781-354-6291.

Pohick Bay Regional Park Temporarily Closed Due to the storm damage

Mr. Short asked me to spread the word that Pohick Bay Regional Park is temporarily closed. As trails are checked/cleared he will reopen them for use.

P.S. Mason Neck State Park is also closed--at least as of 9/21. They have trees down on power lines and must wait for the electric company to remove them.

Please address mail related to the Trails and Greenways Committee to green@riva.net.

Please let us know if your favorite trails are open or closed? Go to our Yahoo Group so everyone will have an opportunity to check the status of the trails. You will need to sign up if you are not already a member. Then go to MESSAGES and ADD A NEW MESSAGE.

You will also notice there is a section for LINKS. This is a great place to add a link for your local riding club, barn, or to trail information. If each of you will add your club, it will save me a lot of work trying to compile the information. Our Yahoo group is at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MHC-TG Thanks! Peggy

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The Federal Highway Administration, the American Recreation Coalition, and the Coalition for Recreational Trails have developed a database of trail projects completed with the use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds.

The database, which is available online at www.funoutdoors.info/rtphome.html, is updated periodically and can be searched according to state, activity, category, and funding level. The RTP database is an excellent source for designs to improve trails in your community. For example, if you are interested in creating a better trailhead to accommodate horse trailers, the database offers contact information for similar projects. An active member of both recreation coalitions, the AHC also uses this database to inform Congress and federal agencies about the impact of RTP funds on projects in their state or district. It's a good way to "show them the money" and the benefits of the program.

The **Trails Committee of the AERC operates the Trails information Center,** a web site (www.aerc.org/trails) that offers information about national trail use and preservation, as well as state-specific news about trails.

For those of you who ride Schooley Mill Park.... there is an information line set up for you to call to find out if the Equestrian Ring and/or Trails are open or closed, due to conditions. It is updated daily, sometimes twice daily. 410/313-4458

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "TROT" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

The **Clifton Horse Society is sponsoring the Charity Poker Ride** at Fountainhead Regional Park, Fairfax Station, VA, Saturday, **November 1, 2003.** This is a 5 or 10 mile ride on the beautiful hilly equestrian trails along the Occoquan River. Pre-registration is required and must be received by Monday, October 27, 2003. For additional information, contact Mary Flowers @ 703/250-6188 (or forhorses@erols.com) Or Pat Hepner @ 703/830-8394 (or CHS9@aol.com).

Blockhouse Point will be closed Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24 to allow for Fall deer hunts. Montgomery County's Deer Management Work Group will oversee the hunts, as well as others scheduled at Goshen Recreational Park in Germantown, Little Bennett Regional Park in Clarksburg, Rachel Carson Conservation Park in Brookeville and North Branch Stream Valley Park in Brookeville during November and December 2003 and January, February and March 2004. For information, visit www.mc-mncppc.org/environment/deer or call 301/495-3585.

Manassas Battlefield

Date: 9/25/2003 3:08:50 PM From: sonewman@starpower.net

Just in case anyone wants to ride the Battlefield trails - **they are CLOSED until further notice**. We saw the notice at the Rt. 29 trailer parking area this morning on the way to the barn.

ZIP

John Lyon's beloved Zip was laid to rest August 25th, 2003, in a gravesite on the ranch located near their pond in his place of honor.

Zip's wonderful life of 28 years is known by all. Highlights include the fact that Zip as the only horse ever to be inducted into the Appaloosa Association's Hall of Fame. While he was still living and he was honored as the 1994 Bryerfest Horse of the Year. Zip was instrumental is assisting John with his training techniques and sharing their incredible partnership and love for each other with horse owners everywhere.

There were three phases to their incredible partnership together. Zip by himself, John by himself and John and Zip together. It was Zip's patience and willingness to trust and try that made Zip the largest, most instrumental influence and a very important key in changing the horse industry forever.

Zip is a legend.

It was a very hard decision to put Zip to rest. John, Jody, Josh and Jana were with him during his passing. It was a blessing that they were all at home during this difficult time. Many around the country will have their own visions of John and Zip working together and having fun with each other and those memories will be forever in the minds and hearts of those who knew him and loved him.

Zip will never be forgotten....

The following information was obtained from information on DNR's web site.

Updates On State Forests And Parks, Public Lands Reopening

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 25, 2003) - The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the following openings of state forests, parks, natural resources management areas, natural environment areas and wildlife management areas.

While many forest and park trails are open for recreational use, visitors are cautioned that the tropical storm winds and saturated soils may have left behind hazardous trail conditions. Visitors should be extra observant of overhead hanging limbs, unstable tree crowns and trees leaning over paved and natural surface trails that could fall and cause severe injury. In addition, trails may be partially blocked by fallen trees and limbs until clean up and repair efforts are completed.

All visitors are also reminded to practice Leave No Trace ethics and avoid walking or riding on trails if they are wet and muddy. Recent excessive rainfall has saturated soils, making them highly vulnerable to erosion and damage from recreational use. All Wildlife Management Areas have reopened, with the exception of Deale Island and Fairmount, and all Wildlife & Heritage Service (a division of DNR) managed islands on the Potomac River.

**A full list of State Forests & Parks that are open follows. If a facility is not listed, it has not yet reopened. You can also bookmark the public lands home page, where updates are made frequently: www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands. Also use this site to find out if equestrian use is allowed.

Central Region
Elk Neck State Forest - Day Use, Campground
Elk Neck State Park - Day Use, Campground
Fair Hill NRMA

Gunpowder Falls State Park - Day Use Central Area, Northern Central Rail Trail & Hammerman Areas {Dundee Marina remains closed}.
Morgan Run NEA
Patapsco Valley State Park - selected day use areas only at Avalon, Glen Artney, Hilton, Hollofield, Pickall & McKeldin and Hollofield Campground,
Rocks State Park - Day Use
Seneca Creek State Park - {undeveloped area only}
Soldiers Delight NEA - Day Use
Susquehanna State Park - Day Use, Campground

Eastern Region
Assateague State Park - Day Use, Campground
Assateague State Park - Day Use, Campground
Choptank River Pier - Day Use
Janes Island State Park - Day Use, Campground, Cabins
Martinak State Park - Day Use, Campground, Cabins
Pocomoke State Forest
Pocomoke River State Park - Day Use, Campground, Cabins Somers Cove Marina
Tuckahoe State Park - Day Use, Campground, Cabins
Wye Island NRMA - Day Use, Lodge
Wye Oak State Park - Day Use
Southern Region
Greenwell State Park - Day Use
Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary - Day Use
Rosaryville State Park - Day Use
Sandy Point - Day Use {caution for debris on beach and in Bay}
St. Mary's River - Day Use

Western Region
Cunningham Falls State Park - Manor Area Day Use & Manor Area Campground {Houck Area remains closed}
Dans Mountain State Park - Day Use
Deep Creek Lake State Park - Day Use, Campground
Fort Frederick State Park - Day Use, Campground
Gambrill State Park - Day Use & Campground
Greenbrier State Park - Day Use, Campground
Green Ridge State Forest - most of the forest accessible - a few roads are blocked and Bonds Landing Camping area is still closed
Herrington Manor State Park - Day Use, Cabins
New Germany State Park - Day Use, Cabins, Campground
Rocky Gap State Park - Day Use, Campground
Savage River State Forest - Day Use, Campgrounds
Sideling Hill Visitor Center - Day Use
Swallow Falls State Park - Day Use, Campground

As of Monday, September 29, 2003, Cedarville State Forest trails are open for use in Brandywine, MD. They have done massive clean up and says people and rider are using the trails, just to take some caution for things they might have missed.

CHS announces a special clinic on **BOMBPROOFING AND PARADE TRAINING YOUR HORSE**

on November 8, 2003 James S. Long District Park, Haymarket, VA. Session 1: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Session 2: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (limited to 20 horses per session) Cost: $40 per horse & rider; $45 per horse & rider for non-CHS member; $10 to audit. Pre-Registration is required for riders. Auditors may pre-register or pay on the day of the event. To register, fill out the form below. REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN November 3, 2003 (Monday). For more information, call Kathy Jayne at 703-239-8590 or e-mail at: riohorse@erols.com.

The TROT Questionnaire Results are in!

We received questionnaires from only a small percentage of our membership, but every one contained useful feedback that will help us make TROT better. It's not too late - you can still return the form to us! We value your input.

What our members like MOST:
Our mission of Trail Preservation, so that we can still ride on both public and private land.
Information about current legislation and issues, and the outcomes.
Trail information, on our rides, new places to go, specifics such as parking, terrain and trail conditions.
The newsletter, especially the calendar and the riding buddy column.
The membership directory, especially the email addresses.

What we like LEAST:
Would like newsletter to come out on the 1st of every month.
More activities in MY county (name any county in MD).
Many members wish they could devote more time and energy to TROT.
We received responses from brand new members and 20-year veterans, and all were insightful.
40% said they would come to our Judged Pleasure Ride, either to compete or to volunteer. Most of the others cited previous commitments as a deterrent.
70% would like to attend picnics or other TROT functions.
60% said they would serve on a committee.
Half of our readers would prefer an electronic (email) newsletter: the other half prefer to have it mailed. Only half of our respondents have accessed our website. of those who have, 60% think we should include more information, especially current issues (county and state) and current trail conditions and problems.

CHANGES and SUGGESTIONS from our members:

Two Judged Pleasure Rides a year instead of one, and/or a Fun Show in addition to the JPR.
TROT should sponsor a Clinic (no subject offered).
The annual meeting should be streamlined and end earlier.
MORE RIDES! Some counties, especially Montgomery, feel they are under-represented. Some members would like l gaited rides also. Some suggested potluck lunches during or after rides.
NEWSLETTERS: To come out on the 1st of every month, with more upcoming events and less "fluff". Some requested that a Treasurer's Report and minutes from the Board Meetings be included, and a county report every month from every county. Summaries of recently held rides would be much appreciated.
Better record keeping, especially concerning memberships. A Welcome Committee for new members.
More involvement by TROT in specific trail projects and new Equestrian Centers (such as Woodstock in Beallsville), etc. Some advocate financial, others physical help.

The website of the American Trails.org announced the following:

Congress Overwhelmingly Saves Enhancements

The bipartisan amendment sponsored by Representatives Petri and Olver passed today by a vote of 327 to 90! The many speakers in favor of the amendment (Democrats and Republicans) were eloquent and dynamic in debate! The amendment was sponsored by Congressmen Tom Petri (R-WI) and John Olver (D-MA). We are so proud of the trails community and how everyone rallied! Everyone came together and shared information and resources and made the "calls." We are going to be better for it and stronger as we reauthorize. Thank you for all of your work and your networking that helped make this vote possible. Give yourself a big pat on the back - and then go use your favorite TE-funded trail and celebrate! Cheers! --Pam Gluck, Executive Director American Trails 530-547-2060 http://www.AmericanTrails.org

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Deer Hunting Season is Underway...

Get out your orange vests and ride with caution...and remember there can be illegal hunters, hunting on the wrong days in the wrong areas. Safety for you and your horse must be your primary agenda. All equestrians are best served by cooperating and being cordial with hunters when encountered on the trail.

REGION A: Allegany, Garrett, and Washington (Zone 2) counties.
Bow season:
Sept 15 - Oct 15, Oct 20 - Nov 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 19, Jan. 5 - Jan. 31
Muzzleloader:
Oct. 16 - Oct. 18, Dec 20- Jan. 3
Firearm:
Nov. 15-Junior Hunt, Nov. 29- Dec. 13

REGION B: Carroll, Frederick (Zone 1), and Washington (Zone 1) counties.
Bow season:
Sept 15 - Oct 15, Oct 20 - Nov 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 19, Jan. 5 - Jan. 31
Muzzleloader:
Oct. 16- Oct. 18, Oct. 23- Oct. 25, Dec. 20 - Jan. 3
Firearm:
Nov. 15-Junior Hunt, Nov. 29- Dec. 13

REGION C: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick (Zone 2), Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.
Bow season:
Sept 15 - Oct 15, Oct 20 - Nov 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 19, Jan. 5- Jan. 8, Jan. 12 - Jan. 31
Muzzleloader:
Oct. 16 - Oct. 18, Oct 23 - Oct 25, Dec. 20 - Jan. 3
Firearm:
Nov. 15-Junior Hunt, Nov. 29- Dec. 13, Jan. 9 - Jan. 10

REGION D: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester counties.
Bow season:
Sept 15 - Oct 15, Oct 20 - Nov 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 19, Jan. 5- Jan. 8, Jan. 12 - Jan. 31
Muzzleloader:
Oct. 16 - Oct.18, Oct 23 - Oct 25 , Dec. 20 - Jan. 3
Firearm:
Nov. 15-Junior Hunt, Nov. 29- Dec. 13, Jan. 9 - Jan. 10

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TROT

Trail Riders of Today

TROT News - December 2003

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Editor:Debbie Palmer
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December 2003

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NEWS

Electronic Edition

TROT Information
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Number 145

Gene Glasscock's Trip Through Maryland

by Pat Oliva

In September 2002, Gene Glasscock and his two Tennessee walking horses began an historic journey to visit all 48 state capitals in the continental United States. The goals of this journey are to raise scholarship funds and to demonstrate the energy and contributions of senior citizens.

Trail Blazer magazine called and asked for support services for Gene while he was in Maryland. As a representative of Trail Riders of Today, I agreed to welcome him to Maryland and coordinate this part of his journey.

Gene Glasscock arrived at Sandy Point State Park October 6th after being trailered across the Bay Bridge. I had planned the best route for his trip to Annapolis to meet Governor Ehlrich and then into Washington, DC to be a guest of the National Park Police. Afterward he was on to Virginia.

Upon his arrival in Maryland, the arrangements for his overnight accommodations fell through. Jane Toal was with me to help any way she could. She was to be his guide on a tour of Annapolis after his horses were settled. We had to do some creative planning which involved going house to house on the route we had planned until we found someone who would agree to keep his horses for the night. We found the friendly family of John Duvall just a few miles down the road. They welcomed Gene's horses with open hearts and big smiles and their young daughter Jenna was especially helpful. The next day her whole class looked up the Long Riders Guild on the Internet and read about all of Gene's escapades. Jane agreed to let Gene stay at her place.

After a lunch at Jane's, we took a tour of Annapolis and Gene was shown the route he would ride Tuesday. We planned to travel to the city and then trailer back to the Duvall's to await the Governor meeting on Wednesday. Gene was adamant about riding every mile of his trip. He declined even a mile of trailering when he could ride. The plan was for him to proceed through Annapolis and pick up Route 450 outside of town to Bowie's rail trail. It was 22 miles of hard road riding. Jane and I had planned to follow him with a bright caution sign and blinkers.

One would think that a man and two walking horses would be easy to keep an eye on and follow. As we were starting out the owner of the parking lot where we had made arrangements to park, asked us to move my trailer to the other side of the lot. Gene said he would start, as there was a good bikeway on the side of the road. When Jane and I went down Rowe Street to find him, he was nowhere in sight. We learned that he had not followed the route but had traveled down West Street, one of the busiest streets through the heart of Annapolis. After some frantic searching, many cell phone calls and pure luck, we finally caught up with him at a gas station. He was talking to a reporter and waiting for a photographer. He made the front page of the Annapolis Newspaper the next day.

The route Gene took down Route 450 had a very narrow shoulder. Gene's horses, Frank and George, were kicking up bottles and cans at an amazing rate. We arrived safely and got Gene's horses settled before he and Jane went to a dinner given by the Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club, where he was the guest of honor and the main speaker.

Gene's meeting with Governor Ehrlich went very well. We marched down Rowe Street escorted by Jackie Cowan, on her white walker, with the Maryland flag furling out in the breeze. The Governor saw us in Lawyers Mall at the base of the Capitol steps. We were in casual attire and he slipped out of his suit jacket and came to meet us in shirtsleeves. Gene was presented with a personal citation from the State of Maryland wishing him well in his journey and in his efforts to raise funds for the education of the youth of Paraguay.

Gene surprised us all when he got off his horse at the Capitol. He informed the Governor that it was tradition for the Governors to mount his horse. Without any hesitant Governor Ehrlich put his foot in the stirrup and mounted. For the first time in his life, Governor Ehrlich was astride a horse. The surrounding crowd and the people watching from office windows gave him a cheer of approval and everyone was smiling and waving. All the horses were very well behaved and left the capital amid friendly waves.

The Merkle family of Bowie were his hosts Wednesday night. They gave him a warm welcome.

Thursday was easy riding on the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis rail trail to Glendale and on to the Anacostia Trail system. Mary Angevine met him here and was Gene's host. They had a delightful visit. Gene stayed with Charles Sewell, Mary's dad, while the horses were next door at Mary's.

Friday, I picked him up and trailered back to the start of the Anacostia trail system. Here he was greeted by Craig Kelltrom from Prince Georges Park and Recreation Department. I have to say a special thanks to Mary, TROT'S Prince Georges Trail Coordinator and the PG Park and Recreation for their great trail system. Gene was able to follow the trails all the way down to Chillum and on into Washington via the Galloway Greenway to Kennedy Road. He rode three miles down this narrow city street through the heart on NW Washington to Rock Creek Park. He remained in DC for his 69th birthday and a grand tour of the mall on horseback.

Wednesday, he returned to Maryland via the Rock Creek park to the C & O Tow Path and proceeded down it to Potomac. He was welcomed by Naomi Manders, TROT's Montgomery Trails Coordinator. Naomi had found a farm for Gene to keep his horses and marked the trail from the canal to the farm for Gene. While his horses were resting in the grassy fields at Callithear Farm, courtesy of George Sengstack, Gene stayed at my house.

On Thursday, October 16, Gene finished his journey through Maryland when he met Zinx Foxx at Whites Ferry for a trip across the Potomac to the 20th State on his long journey across America.

Gene is an amazing man. He is so thankful for the help of others. He has something to teach all of us and many stories to tell on his quest. You can follow his trek on the internet at thelongridersguild.com.

The following article is reprinted, with permission, from Horse Sense...thanks Gail!

Equine Dentist, Mike Dougherty

Hailing originally from West Chester, PA, Mike moved to Centreville in 1978. He's been practicing equine dentistry since 1971, covering the area from central New Jersey to northern Virginia.

Even the most "tooth-savvy" horseman learned something from Mike's talk on July 16.

"God designed the horse to eat grass," Mike said. He went on to explain how any deviation from that diet - such as adding grains to supply the energy needed for high-performance horses - can cause a change in horses' teeth. It is partly because horses are fed grains (which they swallow with less chewing) that points develop on the teeth. The upper jaw is wider than the lower jaw, and the horse's sideways chewing motion tends to sharpen the points on the outside edges of the upper jaw and the inside edges of the lower. Floats (rasps) are used to smooth those points. If whole grains are fed, horses tend not to chew them sufficiently to extract the nutrition from them; many whole grains are passed through into the manure. Mike says processed – rolled, crushed, or crimped – grains already have some of the digestive process started, and don't just lie in the gut unused as do whole grains.

A popular misconception is that horses' teeth keep growing throughout their lifetimes, much like a rodent's. In fact, by the age of 5 or 6, a horse's molars are as large as they'll ever be. Teeth then begin to erupt from the sockets to compensate for the wear occurring on the tooth. This gives the appearance that the tooth is still growing, and also explains why older horses begin to lose their teeth. As the tooth moves up from the socket over time, the pulp and nerves (the live part of the tooth) retreat from the surface. This is why floating (rasping) a horse's teeth is not painful for him as it would be for us. The live part of our teeth is much closer to the surface.

Horses don't experience tooth decay in the same way we do, partly because of their diet, but also because they can't burp. It's gaseous acids which can cause decay. The exception would be a cracked tooth which may trap food and be open to decay; it should then be extracted.

Mike indicated how good performance in a horse can be related to good dentistry. A horse's heavy head on the end of a long neck is used to achieve balance. A horse with a sore mouth may cock his head. Even a slight change of head position will alter aspects of the entire skeletal system, resulting in strains, bowed tendons, etc., especially when a horse is often worked at higher speeds.

Between the ages of 2 and 5 years of age, horses will shed 24 teeth. Molars are the source of most of the problems at these ages, because they push up the baby teeth, creating a high point, which can make the horse tilt its head. These loosened baby teeth, called 'caps', are popped off by the dentist as they occur to make the young horse more comfortable.

Male horses have 44 teeth, and mares have 40 teeth. The difference in number is because the males have four canine teeth (these are not the wolf teeth) located behind the incisors which are used for fighting other stallions or wild animals. They are used for ripping and tearing. Mares don't usually have the canines.

Wolf teeth are entirely different. They are very small, even the size of a corn kernel, and not rooted deeply. They are usually just in front of the first upper molar. If a horse keeps lifting his head when he has a bit in his mouth, one possible reason is that he is trying to keep the bit from hitting the wolf teeth on his upper jaw. If the horse has wolf teeth on the lower jaw, which is less common, a bit can be extraordinarily painful, and a horse may resort to rearing in response to the pain of the bit lying on its teeth.

Mike recommends an annual mouth inspection for pleasure horses six years old and over, more frequently for high-performance horses. He believes in smoothing teeth to eliminate rough edges near the bit, but not to create a "bit seat" within the teeth. He is against the use of power tools for routine dentistry. He said such tools generate a lot of heat, and also require sedation which eliminates any feedback he might get from the horse. He also cautions against over-smoothing the teeth so that the horse can't grind food properly. When working in a horse's mouth, Mike works first without a speculum, but then puts one in place to hold the horse's jaw open so that he can carefully check his work. A horse's mouth narrows toward the back and the speculum enables him to verify what areas are satisfactory and which need more work.

A couple of questions related to feed. Mike said the quality of feed has come a long way. Pellet feeds can be very good if purchased from a reputable source such as Purina, and he especially mentioned the value of senior feeds, which are keeping horses healthy well into their 30s.

Mike gave us an incidental "heads up" regarding Ivermectin, saying he's aware that parasites are beginning to show some resistence to it. This may be something you might want to discuss with your own veterinarian.

Kudos to all the wonderful volunteers who showed up in the pouring rain Saturday, October 4th, to build the first trail bridge in the Seneca Greenway in Montgomery County parkland. The first day three hours were spent with approximately 25 volunteers moving the bridge components from the roadway to the site. The next day another 25 or so folks finished constructing the bridge in a record-breaking 5 hours. This awesome demonstration of teamwork and leadership, brains and brawn has impressed everyone at M-NCPPC. We just think our volunteers are the greatest and all that planning is really paying off. We now know we can erect a bridge in 5 hours with 400 hours of people-power.

We are going to give you a little rest before asking for your help to put up another bridge but I do hope you will help us again. We were particularly pleased to pick up so many new folks, including neighbors, town folks, high school students and hikers, horseback riders, and bikers. Together we can really build a quality trail system throughout Montgomery County.

Thank you so much for being an outstanding volunteer in Montgomery County Parks!

Sincerely,

Naomi Manders,
M-NCPPC Volunteer Coordinator for Trails

For information on saddle fitting:

www.aboutthehorse.com
www.harmanyequine.com
www.animaldynamics.com
www.rocler.qc.ca/portlewis
www.equimeasure.com
www.hadlockfox.com
www.saddletech.com
www.mastersaddlers.com
www.saddlefit.com
www.saddlefitter.com

This Month's Recipe

Honey Applesauce Cookie

1/4 cup oatmeal (dry)
1 handful of sweet feed
2 spoonfuls applesauce
1 spoonful honey or molasses
1 handful Cheerios
4 sugar cubes
a pinch of brown sugar
1/2 cup water

You can mix this right in your horse's feed bucket. Mix the oatmeal with water. Add sweet feed and applesauce. Stir together. Add the Cheerios, brown sugar, and honey or molasses. Mix again and place sugar cubes on top. This serves one horse.

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526) A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

November 8, 15, 29: Work Days on Montgomery County Trails. Contact Naomi Manders @ Naomi.Manders@mncppc-mc.org to volunteer or additional information.

November 30, Sunday: Camp Waredaca, Patuxent River State Park, Montgomery County. These great trails traverse farmland fields into the Patuxent River Park. These trails may overlap and eventually connect with the Upper Patuxent River trails you can explore on a future ride. You may have the interesting experience of riding by some of the cross-country jumps at Waredaca. This is a fun trot/canter ride with a few small log jumps on some of the trails. Contact Gayle Ford at 410-552-5372.

Maryland Horse World Expo January 15-18, 2004 . . . Mark your Calendars!!!

JUNE 6, 2004: TROT JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE

We are pleased to report a new date for the cancelled TJPR in 2003 - a Sunday in 2004 that will be sunny and dry with trails in great shape! The third time will surely be the charm. Riders and volunteers set this date aside NOW. Thanks to Marilynn Miller for her continuing management of this event!

For any feedback, suggestions or comments regarding scheduled rides, contact Michelle Beachley, TROT's Trail Ride Coordinator, at 301/482-2526 or via email(webebeachleys@msn.com)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROTNews, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is January 5th. Make checks out to TROT. Type or print your ad, 70 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

Please note that the classified ad deadline will now be the 5th of the month prior to publication...in an effort to get the bi-monthly newsletter to you by the 1st of the month!

Horses for Sale:
TB gelding, aged, 16 hands, bay w/blaze & socks. Flashy. Very quiet. Great trail horse, lesson or beginner horse. Very safe. $900. contact Lisa, ldgraff@hotmail.com

QH Gelding, 14 yrs old, 15.3, bay. Big boy. Nice jumper. Great on trails. Nice to work around. Quiet. $3,000. Contact Lisa, ldgraff@hotmail.com

Trailer for Sale:
1998 Corn Pro 16' Gooseneck Stock Trailer. $4,000. 410-489-4910

This is YOUR newsletter...**we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:
Gale Monahan, President (301-854-3852)
Tim McGrath, Vice President (1-800-292-3547)
Pat Merson, Secretary (301-898-3251)
Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301-829-0949)

Directors/Board Members:
Kathy Dobson (ksdobson@msn.com)
Marilyn Miller (301-898-7274)
Deneen Martin (301-253-2955)
Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer (410-661-0176)
Trail Ride Coordinator: Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)
Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (1-800-292-3547)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page: Lisa Graff

County Coordinators:
Carroll – Anne Bennof
Howard – Gale Monahan
Frederick – Pat Merson
Montgomery – Tim McGrath
Prince George's – Mary Angevine

HEALTH ISSUES ... The Information Exchange

If you'd like to be included in our TROT email mailing list on issues, happenings and events that occur in between our publications, please advise me. Group emailings could be informative when last minute events are scheduled, health issues are posted for our area or weather concerns affect our areas.

You may be included on this list by emailing DSPSFARM@aol.com – use TROT Email List as the subject in your reference line and you will be added to the list. Thanks!

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "TROT" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

Murphy's Horse Laws

If you do a thorough check of your trailer before hauling, your truck will break down.

There is no such thing as a sterile barn cat.

No one ever notices how you ride until you fall off.

The least useful horse in your barn will eat the most, require shoes every four weeks and need the vet at least once a month.

A horse's misbehavior will be in direct proportion to the number of people who are watching.

Tack you hate never wears out; blankets you hate cannot be destroyed; horses you hate cannot be sold and will outlive you.

Clipper blades will become dull only when the horse is half-finished. Clipper motors will quit only when you have the horse's head left to trim.

If you're wondering if you left the water on in the barn, you did. If you're wondering if you latched the pasture gate, you didn't.

One horse isn't enough; two is too many.

If you approach within 50 feet of the barn in your "street clothes," you will get dirty.

You can't push a horse on a longe line.

If a horse is advertised "under $5,000," you can bet he isn't $2,500.

The number of horses you own increases according to the number of stalls in your barn.

An uncomplicated horse can be ruined with enough schooling.

You can't run a barn without bailing twine.

Hoof picks migrate.

Wind velocity increases in direct proportion to how well your hat fits.

There is no such thing as the "right feed."

If you fall off, you will land on the site of your most recent injury.

If you're winning, quit.

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